House OKs ₱780-B budget; opposition solons walk out

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2001 ★ 64 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 321 ₱15

Foie 'grass,' anyone?

HOBART, Australia—Geese destined to grace the tables of gourmet restaurants in Australia's big cities are being raised on a "dopey" diet—marijuana seeds.

A farmer on the southern island-state of

FOIE/ A17

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- Reese Witherspoon's blonde ambition
- 'Millionaire' and 'Weakest Link' compared
- Nora Aunor's magic still captivates listeners

WITHERSPOON

Gloria blows her top over coup rumors

'Good to hear I'll be next chief of PNP'

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

THE NEXT chief of the Philippine National Police is surprised, happy—and reluctant to talk about the post that President Macapagal-Arroyo announced would be his by January, 2002.

But PNP Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane crumbled in the face of persistent questions.

"I will be a hypocrite if I say I am not happy, but there's still a long way to go," he said. "It's good to hear that I will be the next PNP chief. But for now, I'd rather do my job, work (with my men) as a team and wait for the final designation."

Ebdane apparently foresaw that reporters would seek his reaction to the matter in a news conference yesterday afternoon where he presented the six suspects in the abduction of Evelyn Jao, her son Aaron and their driver. He warned that he would not take questions

GOOD/ A4

Media reporting triggers angry outburst at Palace

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

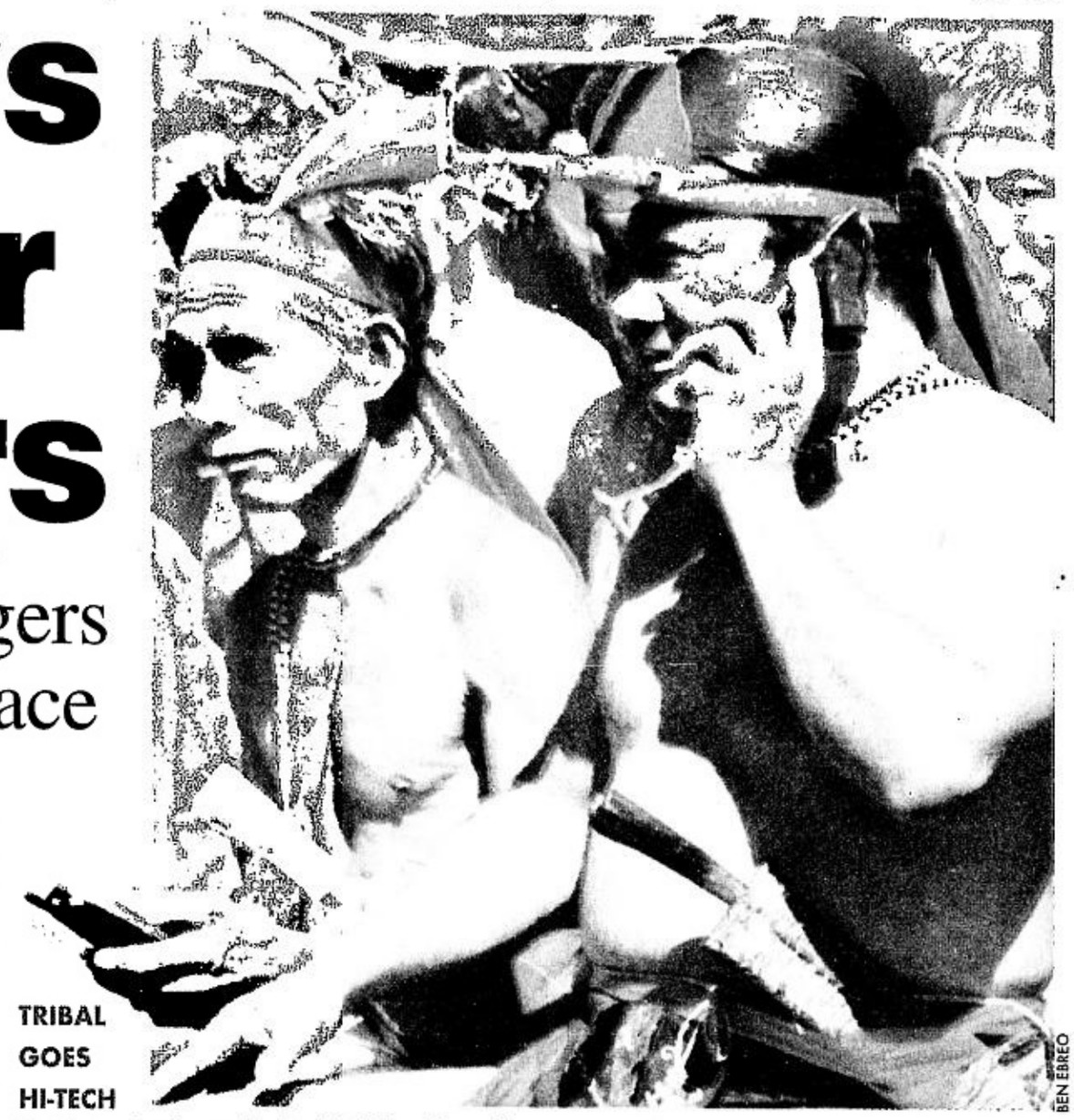
PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo blew her top over the media's reporting of rumors of a supposed coup plot, and did not veil her anger at her weekly press conference yesterday.

Asked by the INQUIRER whether she expected the rumors to die down after leaders of the Young Officers Union declared their support for her administration the other night, she said: "It's up to you, the media."

The President also took offense when asked how she felt about "observations" that her administration, like that of President Corazon Aquino, seemed "vulnerable" to coup plots, whether actual or rumored.

"You're the one who can answer that. Where are these rumors coming from? *Di ba* they're printed in the media and spoken on the radio? So you're the one who can

GLORIA/ A4



TRIBAL GOES HI-TECH

BEN EBREO

The 21st century is upon the Bugkalot tribe of Nueva Vizcaya as two of its members keep in touch the modern way.

Anthrax scare hits RP consulate in LA

BY CHANDLER E. RAMAS III
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—Philippine consulate personnel were evacuated Wednesday from a building at the posh Wilshire business district here after the consulate received a package feared to contain anthrax spores.

The package from nearby Glendale City sent bioterrorism experts and bomb squads from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) scrambling to the consulate.

It was a false alarm but the incident raised fears that the Philippine government is becoming a terrorist target apparently because of President Macapagal-Arroyo's all-out support for the US-led war against terrorism.

Consul General Edwin Bael said receptionist Malou Panaligan discovered the package, which he described as "smudged, dirty and oily."

"She just stepped out of her office to get water and when she came back, the package was there and it had a return address of one Ali M. Tehrani from Glendale. It was suspicious really," Bael said.

The package contained a 26-page letter in Arabic and a seven-page letter in broken English. It was addressed to the Philippine President.

The sender obviously intended to address the package to Joseph Estrada, but apparently learning that Estrada was no longer in office his

ANTHRAX/ A18

Dead or alive, Bin Laden will be hard to get

WASHINGTON—More than a month after US President George W. Bush demanded Osama bin Laden "dead or alive," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld admitted the order may never be carried out.

"It's a big world. There are lots of countries," Rumsfeld told USA Today in an interview published Thursday.

"He's got a lot of money, he's got a lot of people who support him and I just don't know whether we will be successful."

Rumsfeld said the death or capture of the man wanted in connection with the terrorist strikes on US targets on Sept. 11 would not resolve the issues that launched the war on terrorism.

"If he were gone tomorrow, the same problem would exist," said Rumsfeld, referring to his team of lieutenants and al-Qaida network of militants rooted in more than 50 nations.

Rumsfeld also said that the overthrow of the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan who sheltered Bin Laden would not be easy.

"These are very tough people," he said. "They've made a career out of fighting and they are not going to roll over."

He reiterated US criticism of the Taliban for "lying" about civilian casualties and expressed frustration about the negative impact of enemy propaganda.

In London, Britain said Friday it was "very skeptical" that Bin Laden had the capabilities to create a nuclear bomb after British media reported he had acquired nuclear materials.

"We have always known Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida have the motivation to acquire nuclear weapons," a spokesperson said. "But you should be very skeptical

DEAD/ A18

LOOKING for Bin Laden in the wildly barren expanse of Afghanistan is not going to be a walk in the park, top US officials have admitted. GETTY IMAGES

Suspected kidnap boss captured

BY CATHY YAMSUAN AND CARLITO PABLO

RAMON Go, alleged leader of the Esting Gang that kidnapped Chinese-Filipino businesswoman Evelyn Jao, her son and their driver, was arrested in Bulacan Thursday night.

Go was presented to the media yesterday along with another suspect Armando Ambrosio and four others, including a doctor, who were arrested Wednesday morning following a bloody shootout with police during a raid on the group's hideout in Quezon City.

"With the arrest of the six suspects, all those involved in the Jao kidnap-for-ransom case are now in custody," said Hermogenes Ebdane, deputy director general of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Besides Go and Ambrosio, the other suspects are Dr. Hans Tan, Romy Figueroa, Ernesto Cantere and Frank Gajis.

Tan, reportedly a chiropractor,

SUSPECTED/ A17

Good morning, Afghanistan: Music's back on the air

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Faint amid the bombs, the warplanes and the answering artillery, a forgotten sound is coming from the skies over Kabul these days. A tinny, distant voice, crooning tunefully each day around dawn: "Lover, come and sit by me. Lay your head to my lap, and be at ease."

In frivolity-unfriendly Afghanistan, where Taliban leaders stage mock executions of TV sets and drape plastic entrails of eviscerated cassettes from trees, the words are striking a chord unheard in the Afghan capital for years: Music.

Outlawed by the Taliban in all forms after the Islamic militia took power in 1996, music has returned to Afghanistan in broadcasts linked to US propaganda transmissions accompanying the American air war over Afghanistan.

For Afghanistan's people, an Afghan musician-in-exile says, it is truly music to the ears.

"Every kind of song will be welcomed, because at least Afghans can feel, 'Oh, the music's back, and it's back to normal,'" said the musician, interviewed by telephone in London. Living in exile like the rest of his musician family, he spoke on the condition his name not be published for fear of reprisal against him and his family.

"Afghans are crazy for this kind of thing. They need it," he said.

Native Afghan monitors listening from positions along the Afghan border and in London picked up the propaganda transmissions early in the bombing campaign.

The broadcasts identified themselves simply as "Information Radio." The programs were coming in the early morning and evening, Afghan time, said Martin Morgan with the British Broadcasting Corp. monitoring service in London, which tunes in to tiny radio outfits around the world.

Cleverly, Morgan said, the broadcasts use the same frequency as the Taliban's Radio Shariat—the Taliban's all-edict, all-the-time station which was knocked off the

GOOD MORNING/ A17

Second FRONT PAGE

House okays ₱780-B budget

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA

A WALKOUT by minority representatives amid charges of illegality marred the approval at 5:22 a.m. yesterday of the P780.8-billion 2001 national budget by the House of Representatives.

After two weeks of holding marathon sessions, halted at times by filibustering and the lack of a quorum, the majority representatives went home to sleep and rest at 5, satisfied that they had done their job of approving President Macapagal-Arroyo's first budget on second reading.

Malacañang's proposed budget for 2002 was approved intact, all P780.8 billion of it, which is 11.6 percent higher than the P699.9-billion budget for this year.

The opposition, however, declared that the budget had not been approved, or had been approved illegally.

The minority claimed that the proceedings that started at 12:01 a.m. on Friday had been illegal because the sessions of both congressional chambers had adjourned at 12 midnight on Thursday as provided for in their legislative calendar.

"As far as we are concerned, the budget is not yet approved," said House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla who with other minority members walked out shortly after midnight, calling a press conference at 1 a.m.

Padilla said they would go to the Supreme Court next week to ask the high court to nullify the proceedings that culminated in the budget's approval.

After the approval on second reading, the budget goes through a third reading, but no individual amendments would be accepted on the floor at this point.

The House approved the budget by viva voce (voice vote) since nominal voting is done only on the third and final reading.

Padilla was joined in his protest by minority Representatives Carlos Lobregat, Lala Santos, Abraham Mitra, Hussin Amin, Rossano Rufino Biazon and Gilbert Remullá.

Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, however, dismissed the minority threat.

"All these threats of going to the Supreme Court are only good sound bytes. There is nothing to bring to the Supreme Court, there is no judicial controversy to speak of because this is just second reading (approval). There is still no law and only a law can be challenged before the Supreme Court," Gonzales said.

"I can only wish them good luck," he said.

But Amin (Sulu, LDP) said it was not a law that the group is challenging but the "constitutionality of the proceedings," an issue over which he said the SC has jurisdiction.

The quarrel centered on the legislative clock.

Padilla said the proceedings after 12 midnight were unconstitutional because they violated the legislative calendar, which fixes the dates for the adjournment and resumption of congressional sessions. The calendar had set the dates of the current session for Sept. 7 to Oct. 25. The resumption was set for Nov. 12.

There would have been no problem if the House leaders had "stopped the clock" before 12 midnight so the session could continue *sine die* (indefinitely as in long adjournments), said Lobregat.

But the House majority leaders made the clock lapse beyond midnight so the sine die provision no longer applied, he said.

Besides, the Senate having already adjourned, the House could not continue in session, Lobregat argued.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, the chair of the House rules committee, however maintained that the approval was legal and constitutional.

He said the clock could not be stopped as is done during *sine die* (long adjournments) because they were not in *sine die*.

"Stopping the clock only occurs during *sine die* adjournment which is the adjournment between the regular sessions," he said.

Gonzalez explained that unlike a calendar day which is measured by 24 hours, a legislative day ends only by adjournment.

"So Oct. 25 and 26, even if we did not stop the clock, that is only one legislative day," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said the minority's interpretation of Section 16 of the Constitution which states that neither house shall adjourn for more than three days without the consent of the other was "negative."

He said this provision did not prohibit the holding of a session without the consent of the other house.

"The position of the majority, which is backed by tradition in the past Congress, is that we can have extended sessions even beyond what is provided for in our common legislative calendar," Gonzales said.

The only prohibition, he said, is that no sessions can be held for a period of not less than 30 days prior to the next regular session.

Each term of Congress has three regular sessions.

"We have to respond to the crisis of our people and pass the budget because it is the most important asset of the nation," said Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The minority also accused the majority of railroading the budget approval, especially of the key departments, after the minority had walked out, thus the budget did not have the benefit of scrutiny by the opposition.

The budgets of the education, defense and public works departments, the three biggest funded agencies, were approved after midnight.

So were those of agriculture, health, energy and environment departments, and the agencies under the Office of the President.

"Pangasinan express happened last night," Mitra said, alluding to De Venecia.

De Venecia denied this, saying House members "labored long and hard" to pass the budget.

"Railroaded? Excuse me!" said Gonzalez.

"We have deliberated on this budget for the past six days starting Tuesday from 1 p.m. up to 9:30 p.m. The records will bear us out, that it is the opposition which made it so hard for this budget," he said.

Money changer detained at Naia

CUSTOMS officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday stopped a foreign currency dealer from boarding his flight to Hong Kong after at least P20 million in foreign currencies was found in his possession.

Customs collector Celso Templo identified the foreign currency dealer as Rosauro Patricio, 45, owner of the Patricio Money Changing Shop on Mabini Street in Malate, Manila.

Customs investigators found Singaporean dollars, Saudi rials, Australian dollars, Japanese yen, Canadian and US dollars inside Patricio's hand carried luggage.

Templo said Patricio's detention is a test case of the recently passed Money Laundering Law, which calls for the investigation of citizens found carrying at least P5 million out of the country.

There is, however, no government restriction on the transport of any amount of foreign currency following the liberalization of policies on such financial matters.

The prohibition applies only to local currency exceeding P10,000.

Investigation showed that Patricio was a regular traveler to Hong Kong. This gave rise to suspicions of his possible involvement in money laundering activities.

Patricio's lawyers, who included Integrated Bar of the Philippines president Leonardo de Veyra, said there was nothing wrong with their client's activities. *Norman Bordadora*

Gloria defends Mike anew from critics

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE WELL-KNOWN temper of President Macapagal-Arroyo flared up a bit yesterday over suggestions that her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo emulate the low-profile spouse of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"A Dennis Thatcher? But he does that. He does," Ms. Macapagal said, her voice rising.

The suggestions have surfaced as the First Gentleman's name has been linked to a number of controversies which have been biting at the heels of the Macapagal administration.

One involved the alleged bribery in an attempt to recall the President's veto of two telecommunications franchises. Another focused on the alleged diversion of funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

The First Gentleman also has television and radio programs.

Observers have said that this high profile in public affairs is exactly the opposite of what Dennis Thatcher did when his wife became British prime minister and that was to practically fade away from public view.

Some quarters within civil society groups are also questioning the appointment to government posts of persons described as friends of the First Gentleman.

President Macapagal, however, would have none of these.

"Can you ask (Justice Secretary Hernando) Perez. Can you ask (Finance Secretary Jose) Camacho. Can you ask (Tourism Secretary Richard) Dick Gordon ... if he has meddled in contracts," the President said in staccato.

She also defended her appointees whom critics said were chosen because of their association with her husband.

"But they are my appointees!" the President said. "They have been vetted by the selection committee."

President Macapagal was also harsh on the civil society group People's Consultative Assembly which warned of withdrawing its support from her government unless reforms, specifically against graft and corruption, are undertaken.

The PCA had issued an open letter to the President giving her 30 days to institute changes in her administration, which include firing alleged Arroyo associates in government.

Queried whether she has read the letter, the President said: "No, I have not read or seen. I saw it in the news."

"None," the President coldly said when asked about her reaction to the PCA letter.

Asked whether she is dismissing the PCA, President Macapagal said: "PCA means nothing to me."

Gloria gives P345,000 to wife of heroic cop

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo personally handed a check worth P345,000 to the widow of SPO4 Edmundo de Leon after attending a Mass at his wake last night.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said the fallen cop's family can expect an additional P220,000 more once his death and other benefits have been processed.

"The sum given to Mrs. De Leon represents the initial death benefit and the six months advance salary usually given to the survivors of policemen who die in the line of duty," Mendoza explained.

He said the remaining balance will represent his retirement benefits and the cumulative leave credits that he obtained while in service.

"We will prioritize SPO4 De Leon's case," Mendoza assured.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said De Leon's family requested for scholarships for his two youngest children as well as a write-off of the housing loan he obtained before dying.

Lina said the National Police Commission would still have to evaluate the write-off requested by De Leon's widow.

DBP exec commits suicide

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A TOP official of the Development Bank of the Philippines died of a gunshot wound yesterday in what the Makati City police said was an apparent case of suicide.

Police identified the fatality as Amando Garcia, 52, first vice president and head of the credit and appraisal management department of the DBP.

PO2 Juanito Ibis said that the bank official had been ill and had just recently gotten out of the Potenciano Hospital (formerly Polymedic) in Mandaluyong where he was confined for a week for insomnia and hypertension.

He died of a gunshot wound in the head from a gun of still undetermined caliber. The bullet entered the mouth and exited at the rear of his skull.

His body was discovered by his relatives at around 10:45 a.m. inside the bedroom of his house on Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City.

Police are still investigating the incident.

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THIRD PRE-JUDICATURE PROGRAM
The Academic Council of the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) announces that it will hold the *Third Pre-Judicature Program* at the Court of Appeals Auditorium, Centennial Building, Maria Orosa St., Ermita, Manila, from December 3-17, 2001 *for Phase I*, and on January 14-28, 2002, *for Phase II*. Both Phases must be completed by participants.
Satisfactory completion of and compliance with the requirements of the Pre-Judicature Program is required for qualified lawyers aspiring for original appointments to the Judiciary below the Supreme Court, pursuant to Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8557.
Interested parties may contact PHILJA at telephone number 523-6277 or telefax 523-9075 not later than November 26, 2001. Those with pending applications for the Third Pre-Judicature Program are also required to pay the registration fee prior to the deadline set. All applicants are subject to an interview.

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US advisers now in Basilan

Southcom chief sees 'end game' in hostage crisis

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Five months after the Abu Sayyaf raided a Palawan resort and took many hostages, the United States military has sent experts to review rescue operations for two Americans and nine Filipinos still held by the kidnap gang on Basilan island.

Yesterday, 22 US Special Forces advisers met here with Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu and other officers in this southern city.

Before the meeting started, Cimatu said a major clash with the Abu Sayyaf was expected in a matter of days.

He said the battle with the kidnap gang, whose firepower has been degraded following clashes that left at least 60 of their members dead this month alone, was nearing its "end game."

Military sources said some of the visiting Americans would likely conduct an aerial inspection of the jungles of Basilan where thousands of soldiers are pursuing about 100 Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Lt. Col. Darwin Guerra, the Southern Command spokesperson, said "the Americans are definitely going to Basilan island but we cannot say when they are leaving."

But National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday said in Manila that the US team was already in Basilan.

"They are now in Basilan and they are conducting dialogues with the military there so they can unaerstand better the tactical (problems) and the situation for the purpose of finding out how the US military can enhance the capability of the Philippine military in fighting terrorism," Golez said.

Briefing

Guerra said the Americans were being briefed on the situation in Basilan where the Abu Sayyaf are holding the hostages in a thickly forested area and on the rescue efforts.

The hostages include US missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham of Kansas.

The government says that the Abu Sayyaf, a kidnap band notorious for abducting foreigners and Christians in the south for years, have links with Osama bin Laden, the main suspect behind the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States.

The US advisers arrived amid heightened concerns about terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Officials have previously said the visiting US advisers will review the performance of Philippine troops in their pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf and assess what equipment the local military needs.

No combat

However they will not be joining the actual combat against the armed group.

Yesterday the military sought to clarify yet again the nature of the visit here of "22 US military coordinators," as the military prefers to call them.

The visit was part of the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said.

"The treaty provides that both nations strive to increase their capability in combating the threats that they are facing and so they will assist each other in increasing this capability," told reporters here.

He said the country can expect more such visits in the future under the 50-year treaty.

"We have a long relationship with them (the Americans)," Adan said.

While admitting that the arrival of the US coordinators had been triggered by the Sept. 11 attacks, Adan could not say which side initiated the idea.

"We cannot say who, I am not in the position to know also. As long as our level is concerned, this is a mutually agreed visit, it's provided in the treaty. We do not need to formalize it because we talk from time to time," he said.

He said, however, the role of the coordinators here would be restricted to studying and "(looking) at our plans, how we conduct our operations and see what our strength and weaknesses are. They will also be learning from us."

Tight security

Adan said the military was not trying to conceal the activities of the Americans from the public.

He said the visiting team was so concerned about their security that they did not want to be interviewed or photographed.

The US military experts, including two women, have been provided tight security.

Journalists and some local officials earlier questioned unusual restrictions surrounding the US team's visit.

Adan said the US government itself had made the request that the coordinators be shielded from the public.

"That's the policy of their government, for obvious reasons. As you know, world terrorism can strike anywhere. We are the host country and we have to respect that," Adan explained. *AFP with a report from Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Martin P. Marfil, Metro Manila*

Gov't troops kill 5 Abus in clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops killed at least five Abu Sayyaf extremists in a clash in a remote village near Tuburan town in Basilan, officials said yesterday.

Col. Roland Detabali said soldiers clashed with 15 members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group late Thursday, killing five.

"There were no military casualties," Detabali said.

He said the rest of the bandits fled deeper into the jungle. *AP*

SC saves Basilan policeman

THE HIGH tribunal has saved from lethal injection a police officer, who killed three colleagues inside a police station in Isabela, Basilan, in 1994.

The high court reversed the three death sentences imposed on PO3 Noel Feliciano in September 1996 by the Regional Trial Court of Isabela, Basilan.

Instead of the maximum penalty of death, the high court downgraded Feliciano's sentence to reclusion perpetua for killing Police Insp. Edgardo Miguel.

An imprisonment from six to eight years was also imposed on Feliciano for homicide for killing SPO4 Santiago Miguel and PO3 Roberto Arabejo.

The decision was promulgated on Sept. 25, but copies of the ruling were distributed to reporters only yesterday.

In lowering the penalty, the high court said that the trial court erred by failing to appreciate the mitigating circumstances of voluntary surrender "as well as of passion and obfuscation in (Feliciano's) favor."

Michael Lim Ubac

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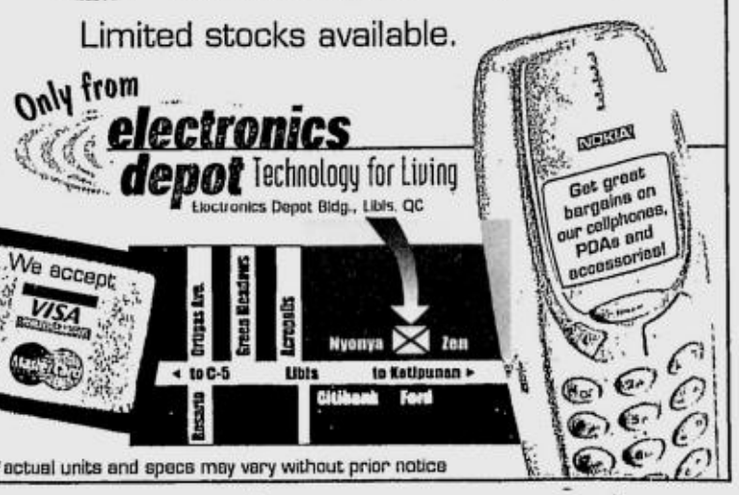

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Gloria blows her top over coup rumors

(From page A1)

answer that," she said.

"You tell me why (the administration is vulnerable) because you're the ones talking about it," she went on. "Otherwise, you tell me who said that and I'll ask the person why (he said that)."

The President blamed the peso's fall to P52 against the US dollar on the coup rumors.

"Why did it go down?" she demanded when asked to explain the cause of the peso's depreciation. "Coup rumors, coming from whom?"

But she said "the natural value" of the peso was P50:$1, adding that she hoped the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would take action to stop speculators who might be bringing the currency's value down.

The President said enemies of her administration were behind the coup rumors. But she did not name names.

She urged the public not to be affected by the rumors and expressed confidence that she had the full support of the military, the police and the public.

"For the first and last time, I want to assure our people that the government is not facing any coup. Rumors about a coup are a product of the imagination of those dreaming to bring down the government," she said in Filipino, reading from a prepared speech.

"In fact, they are the ones behind these rumors. But they know they do not have the capability to launch a coup. They can't convince others to join them," she said.

She also said the enemies of her administration "want to scare the people in order to disrupt our normal lives and obstruct our progress and the economy."

No comment

The President flatly refused to comment on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's earlier claim that the rumors were started by her administration to divert attention from the bribery allegations against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

"I have no comment on his statement," she said, cutting off a reporter in mid-question.

Asked for her reaction to her predecessor Joseph Estrada's denial of involvement in any destabilization attempt, she merely replied, "Thank you."

Earlier in the day, the President met with top officials of the Philippine National Police when she swore in six new two-star police generals and 30 new one-star ones, including newly promoted Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, who had accused Lacson of involvement in the supposed "Black October" coup plot.

Asked about the meeting, she said she discussed "police matters" with Berroya.

The President did not elaborate on National Security Adviser Roilo Golez's earlier disclosure that an Army colonel had trained 50 paramilitary forces called the Urban Poor Liberation Front in Bulacan, supposedly to conduct "destabilization."

"He has briefed me," she said tersely.

She denied conducting a loyalty check on top Armed Forces and PNP officials in the light of the rumors.

"Do you want to call (AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio) Villanueva? Do you want to call (PNP Director General Leandro) Mendoza again? They're very loyal, very disciplined, very professional," she said in response to a question.

The President also denied that she had entered into a compromise with YOU leaders Superintendents Rafael Cardeño and Diosdado Valeroso.

Cardeño was invited for questioning at Camp Crame and was held there from Wednesday afternoon to Thursday morning.

"It is not my role to appease the men who are under me," the President said. "They are in active service and they are under my command. It is their role to obey me."

During their meeting with the President Thursday night, Cardeño and Valeroso denied that they were plotting a coup. They promised to support the government and even offered their services.

Advice

At a press conference yesterday at the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency building, Golez offered a piece of advice to Cardeño: Stick to your job at the Land Transportation Office. Golez had been asked to comment on reports that LTO chief Edgardo Abenina was on the way out. In reply, he said they were not concerned with that issue but added that Cardeño, Abenina's subordinate, had met with the President.

"I was listening to him and he was talking of some crusades to help the government. But my advice to him is to focus on his job, (which) is with the LTO," Golez said, adding:

"If there is any need for cleansing, he should focus on the LTO and not get involved in other things. He is being paid to help the LTO, not to go around the country and try to undertake his own crusade. He could be subject to misunderstanding because people would doubt what he is doing—what is his agenda, why he is going beyond his organization. That is not his duty. He should not get involved in politics or something that could be construed as being in politics."

Golez also clarified that what was happening was merely an opposition-inspired destabilization campaign.

He said the coup rumors were part of this campaign that could be aimed at weakening the government in preparation for the 2004 elections.

He added that the government had not yet ascertained whether the YOU was involved in any "destabilization efforts."

Alert

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta announced that the military would be put on alert with the President's departure on Sunday for a state visit to China.

He also sought to allay fears triggered by reports of "troop movements" Wednesday night, saying these were part of the usual military supply runs from points in Luzon to the Navy port in Sangley Point in Cavite.

"Every time the President leaves the country, we are placed on the highest state of alert," Mabanta said. "Also, there are reports of trucks and tanks around, but these are just logistical runs, normal administrative troop movements."

Mabanta also said Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, the Army commanding general who was to hold a press conference, had been summoned to Malacañang along with the other major service commanders.

But he said the unscheduled meeting was "nothing unusual."

Like Golez, Mabanta said the military's counter-intelligence branch had been monitoring the situation.

"The loyalty check is always the function of intelligence. We have the counter-intelligence branch and (monitoring) has been going on all the while. And we see no problem when it comes to the . . . loyalty of the soldiers (and) to the duly constituted authority," Mabanta said, adding:

"There is really no problem at this point in terms of command and control. Gone are the days of military adventurism, and the soldiers . . . are sick and tired of coup rumors."

Treason

Sen. Blas Ople said a coup conspiracy was an act of treason and coup plotters and participants should be meted the death penalty.

Ople also said he would not entertain any attempt to use the Senate to legitimize the coup rumors by holding public hearings on the issue.

"This is a hoax being propagated for insane reasons," he said at a press conference. "There is no coup and there will be no coup."

He added that fanning coup rumors was itself a crime because it distorted and destroyed the country's image in the international community, especially among foreign investors.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said those spreading coup rumors were doing the country a great disservice.

"(But) one thing is very clear: There is no coup and there is no group yet capable of mounting a coup," he said, pointing out that the factors that could contribute to the mounting of a coup were not present.

Arroyo recalled that there were at least five coup attempts during the Aquino administration, of which he was executive secretary.

"At that time, we knew exactly who were involved, where they were coming from, and how it will happen," he said.

Arroyo said the attempt to link former President Fidel Ramos and former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte to the supposed coup plot was ridiculous.

"I can't imagine a former president attempting to mount a coup. What for? He would not benefit from it," Arroyo said.

Ople blamed some members of the opposition, particularly Partido ng Masang Pilipino spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla, for the coup rumors.

He said that the political opposition was not plotting to destabilize the Macapagal administration, and that it wished the government's development programs to proceed vigorously.

He urged the President to call a national emergency economic summit to address the mounting economic problems.

Ople also said the President should order police and military officials to desist from commenting on issues not within their province in order to stop the coup rumors.

"Clearly, it's the presence of loose tongues in the various branches of the military and the police that light up these coup rumors," he said.

But Sen. Manuel Villar said coup rumors would always hound the President because of the extra-constitutional manner of her assumption of power.

"(The administration) has already anticipated these rumors because of how the President was installed into office. So all we can do is to bear with these," Villar said at press conference Friday in Baguio City. ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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'Good to hear I'll be next chief of PNP'

(From page A1)

about the President's earlier announcement that he would be next in line to PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza who retires next January.

Nevertheless, Ebdane found it difficult to avoid a question formally asked. "I was surprised," he replied, adding that he would not answer any more questions about the PNP leadership issue.

Came a follow-up question: "What are your future plans as PNP chief?"

"*Ipinapahamak mo 'ko* (You're getting me into trouble)," he told the reporter with a wry smile.

But Sen. Joker Arroyo said the "premature selection" of Ebdane as the next PNP chief was unfortunate as this was triggered by coup rumors.

Still, Arroyo upheld the President's prerogative to choose whomever she wanted as long as the nominee was qualified.

On a visit Thursday to Boracay to inaugurate infrastructure projects, the President told reporters that Ebdane would be the next PNP chief as dictated by the seniority rule.

Her announcement doused speculations triggered by rumors of a coup plot that would have Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police commander, bypassing his seniors and emerging as the next PNP chief.

Ebdane said Berroya phoned him after hearing of the President's statement.

"He and I are friends," Ebdane said. "We came from the same school (Philippine Military Academy)."

Praiseworthy

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who attended the news conference, said the fact that Ebdane ably led his men to swiftly recover the kidnap victims merited praise.

"We are happy with him as (chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force) because in a short while, he accomplished a lot in the effort to crush kidnappers," Perez said in an ambush interview later.

"I have reported to the President what (Ebdane) has done. The President will be the one to choose (the next PNP chief)," Perez added.

Mendoza himself described the President's announcement as "a welcome development."

"At least we now know who will really become the next PNP chief," Mendoza said in an interview over radio station dzBB.

He also said that while the appointment of a new PNP chief was the President's prerogative, the incumbent would normally be consulted about his replacement.

In a separate interview, Berroya said likewise welcomed the news about Ebdane's future appointment.

"That should put an end to all speculations and rumors," he said in Filipino.

Ebdane was one of the police generals who readily sided with People Power II forces after the majority of senators voted against opening the second envelope containing evidence damaging to then President Joseph Estrada at his impeachment trial.

He headed the PNP National Capital Region Police Office from June 1996 to July 1998, and the Western Police District Command from November 1993 to June 1996.

Professional

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who was PNP chief during the Estrada administration, said Ebdane could stop the growing split in the police organization.

Lacson said he himself had witnessed Ebdane's professionalism, capability and dedication to work.

Sen. Blas Ople, Lacson's colleague in the opposition, said he was impressed by Ebdane's good track record.

Ople also said he preferred Ebdane over Berroya although the latter was his friend. ***With a report from Cynthia D. Balana***

GMA rules out ransom for priest

Kidnappers want ₱50M for Italian missionary

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ruled out ransom payment for kidnapped Italian missionary Giuseppe Pierantoni held captive by rogue Moro guerrillas in Central Mindanao.

"I can tell you they are not going to get any money for the Italian, they are going to get a chase, which is what they are getting now," Ms Macapagal told a news conference.

Fr. Pierantoni was abducted earlier this month by gunmen from his parish in Zamboanga del Sur province.

He is believed being kept in an area in Central Mindanao by the Pentagon kidnap group composed mostly of rogue guerrillas of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the country's main Muslim-led insurgent group which is talking peace with the government.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta said the Pentagon was demanding a P50 million ransom for Fr. Pierantoni.

"I was told that Commander Ramsey has asked for P50 million in exchange for the (priest), although this has to be confirmed," Mabanta said at a press conference yesterday.

The amount was a big jump from the figure quoted by Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, chief of Task Force Giuseppe, the other day.

Atutubo said that the military had "raw information" that Ramsey's group was asking for P8.3 million.

The military has focused the search for the priest in an area that includes some towns in Maguindanao, the Lanao provinces and Zamboanga.

These areas, Mabanta said, were areas that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front claim as their territory.

But up to now, he said, the MILF has not claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

"They should not wash their hands and say they have nothing to do with this... to show sincerity, I think the MILF should talk to their ground commanders," he said.

The MILF deny any link to the kidnappers.

The Pentagon group earlier this year snatched four Chinese men and a Filipino. Two Chinese were later killed in a military rescue attempt, while a third escaped and the Filipino was freed.

The last Chinese hostage was freed last week through the intercession of the Libyan government supposedly after promises of "humanitarian assistance."

Sources say, however, that a hefty ransom was paid.

Asked to comment on the alleged ransom payment, Ms Macapagal said it was only a rumor and ruled out any ransom payment for Fr. Pierantoni.

In Zamboanga City, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said the military would not spare members of the MILF if they are found to be helping the kidnappers of Fr. Pierantoni.

"I gave a specific instruction to my commanders to hit the kidnappers, even if they go to some sanctuaries of the MILF," Cimatu told newsmen yesterday.

However, Eid Kabalu, spokesperson for the MILF stood by his earlier pronouncement that no MILF member was involved in the abduction of Fr. Pierantoni.

"In fact we are offering our help, we are just waiting for timing, but as to the accusation of some of the military officials, that is not true, we have never been involved in kidnapping," Kabalu said.

He said that once the government asks to tap their services, "we will gladly help them."

In Pagadian City, Marines searching for the kidnapped priest on Thursday raided the house of the first wife of Faizal Marohombsar, the leader of the Pentagon gang.

The raids on suspected hideouts of Pentagon leaders have raised speculations that the military was still not certain where Fr. Pierantoni was.

"We have a general idea of their location, and I have orders to hit them, rescue the hostage and neutralize the kidnappers," Cimatu said. *AFP with reports from Hernan P. dela Cruz and Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pimentel bats for federal gov't

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

SENATE minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday renewed the call for the establishment of a federal system of government.

In a speech in Davao City before youth leaders belonging to the Ateneo community, Pimentel said that the federal system "will release national political powers and national economic resources from their concentration in the hands of the central government in Manila."

He added that the new form of government would "disperse these powers and resources among the various sectors."

Under Pimentel's proposal, the new federal republic will have 10 federal states.

Luzon will have four states, namely, Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Bicol.

Metro Manila may be declared a special federal administrative region like Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia or Canberra in Australia.

The Visayas will have three federal states: Eastern Visayas, Central Visayas and Western Visayas.

Mindanao will have three: Northern Mindanao, Northeastern Mindanao and Bangsa Moro.

Pimentel said a new Constitution would define the powers of the federal government and the federal states.

The federal government will continue to exercise the powers to "conduct diplomacy, maintain and control the army, to levy national taxes, to prepare national development plans, to promote justice in general, to provide education in general and engage in such other matters as may be lodged in its jurisdiction."

The federal states may, for example, be allowed to "formulate local development plans, generate and utilize local taxes and resources, conduct trade and commerce with other countries and run the police."

Be patriotic, go on vacation, says Palace

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

BE PATRIOTIC and take a vacation.

Malacañang yesterday urged the public to go on vacation during the five-day All Saints' Day holiday next week to counter the slump in foreign tourism.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said Filipinos themselves had to take up the slack in the number of foreign tourists by boosting domestic tourism.

"Come All Saints' Day vacation, please go out on vacation. Not out but within the Philippines," she said at her weekly press conference.

The five-day weekend begins on Oct. 31, a Wednesday, the eve of All Saints' Day. It ends on Nov. 4, which falls on a Sunday.

Ms Macapagal praised Boracay and Camiguin Islands, which she visited the other day, because they successfully countered the slack in international tourism following the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

This was worsened by the travel advisories issued by the United States, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore telling their citizens not to visit the Philippines.

"They have been doing very well because of domestic tourism. I also like to point out that Boracay has not suffered a decline in tourism because domestic tourism has been very strong," the President said.

Boosting domestic tourism is one way of stimulating domestic demand to counter the global economic slowdown, according to Ms Macapagal.

Erratum:

In yesterday's front page story "Travel Bans Imperil 50,000 Tourism Jobs," we identified the Shangri-La Area Manager as Mr. Richard Wiley. His real name is Mr. Richard W. Riley. Our apologies.—Eds

Benipayo on raps: False and baseless

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

COMELEC chair Alfredo Benipayo yesterday described as "false and baseless" the charges of funds misuse lodged against him in a graft complaint by a losing mayoral candidate from Albay.

The Comelec chair insisted at the same time that the Ombudsman had no jurisdiction over the chair and commissioners of the poll body.

Benipayo, in a news conference, said the graft charges, including the P6.2 million damage suit filed against him and six commissioners by the Photokina consortium, all point to a campaign of black propaganda aimed at derailing his confirmation by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

He said it was Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco and the Photokina consortium which were behind the black propaganda.

Benipayo said the Photokina consortium was concerned that the P6.5-billion Voters Registration and Identification System project, which it had won, would have no chance of being implemented if he is confirmed and stays on as chair for the next six years.

The VRIS is a brainchild of Tancangco, who chairs the Comelec modernization committee.

Benipayo last month took over as chair of the committee but Tancangco has refused to recognize his authority.

"Obviously they don't want me to be confirmed because they are afraid that I would flex my muscles," Benipayo said.

Is the US 'stealing Thai's jasmine rice?

BANGKOK—Thailand will send an official delegation to a rice institute in the Philippines next week to ask why the group gave samples of a Thai-bred rice to US researchers who are allegedly developing the strain to grow there.

Commerce Ministry Permanent Secretary Karun Kittisataporn said last week that Thailand plans to block any attempt by the United States to patent rice strains genetically developed from Thai jasmine fragrant rice, a premium grade of the grain.

Thai farmers and a non-governmental organization have urged the government to block the US rice researchers' activities because of concerns they would hurt Thailand's exports. Thailand is the world's largest exporter of rice.

The delegation going on Oct. 29 to the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, or IRRI, includes agriculture ministry officials and agricultural and legal experts.

Delegation head Suthep Limthongkul, director general of the Thailand Rice Research Center, said it will seek an explanation of the circumstances under which the US researchers were given the Thai rice stock and urge IRRI to seek a clarification of researchers' intentions.

The jasmine fragrant rice strain, Dok Mali 105, was developed by Thai researchers in 1959. It was contributed to the IRRI, which was founded in 1960 by 10 rice-growing nations with the aim of eradicating famine in underdeveloped countries. *AP*

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The UN in a new world

THE UNITED Nations marked its 56th anniversary on Wednesday, facing a new world that has scarcely any resemblance to the global order that emerged after the end of World War II. The signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco in 1945 established an international system that reflected the defeat of totalitarianism and the triumph of Western democracies.

EDITORIAL

Today, the same organization that has devoted itself to keep the peace finds that peace shattered by a new form of menace: international terrorism. The UN anniversary took place a month after the terrorist attacks on the United States and barely three weeks after the UN and Secretary General Kofi Annan were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2001. They won the award "for promoting peace, defending human rights and fighting poverty."

Suddenly, after the brutal attacks in a new borderless war against faceless enemies without state and national boundaries, the United Nations is confronted with the challenge of how to cope with this charged circumstances and demands for peace-keeping.

The immediate impact of the Sept. 11 attacks was that it emphasized the importance and indispensability of the United Nations as the only international institution that has the framework within which nations can respond to the crisis. The day after the attacks, the UN Security Council in a unanimous resolution "unequivocally condemned in the strongest terms" these acts of terrorism and characterized them as "a threat to international peace and security." The resolution expressed the council's readiness to take all necessary steps to respond to the attacks and to "combat all forms of terrorism" in accordance with its charter responsibilities. The resolution set the stage for other regional and security organizations to condemn the attacks and prepared the ground for an international coalition to combat terrorism.

The need for allies after the attacks jolted the United States from a developing isolationist inclination. In its diplomatic offensive to align most of the world behind the campaign on terrorism, the United States remitted its unpaid dues to the United Nations and used the UN arena as the center of its diplomatic initiatives to organize the coalition. The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have at least shocked the United States to recognize that its status as the sole superpower after the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War did not shield it from this new form of war and it has to depend more than ever before on a broad coalition to defend itself at home.

Indeed, the words of the Nobel committee are prophetic. In announcing the first Peace Prize awarded to the United Nations, the committee said it aimed "in its centenary year to proclaim that the only negotiable route to global peace and cooperation goes by way of the United Nations."

While terrorist attacks have underlined the centrality of the United Nations as an instrument for conflict resolution, the old tools that in the past had helped manage conflict are no longer useful. The United Nations is not mediating conflict among nations. The terrorist cells are buried in several countries, including some in the West. The international campaign formed within its framework is composed of countries many of which have condemned terrorism but are not prepared to back the US-led attacks on Afghanistan.

The war on terrorism sows seeds of contradictions in the UN accent on defending human rights and fighting poverty. The bombings in Afghanistan, while directed at military targets, have caused collateral casualties on civilians, giving rise to accusations by the Taliban regime in Kabul that the United States is waging a war of terror on the innocent. The Taliban could be exaggerating the impact of the bombings on civil life and it is not easy to dismiss charges that they are inserting their soldiers and military equipment in civilian centers and mosques to deflect air attacks.

It will not be easy for the United Nations to reconcile its condemnation of terrorism and claims of human rights violations. The terrorists apparently did not bother about human rights when they hijacked commercial airlines loaded with passengers and crashed them into population centers. The Taliban is not giving up Osama bin Laden, so there's no immediate prospect of a cessation of the US attacks in Afghanistan. In the meantime, poverty bleeds the Afghan people, and this also calls for UN action to provide relief and alleviate poverty as a long-term antidote to terrorist extremism.

An innocuous accommodation

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THOSE who are quick to bristle at any mention of a national ID system should look first before they leap. It's not as if we were threatened with a danger as sinister as an anthrax outbreak.

I was among the many citizens who resisted the original national ID system proposed under the Ramos administration. I too considered it an intrusion into our right to privacy and a disguised attempt of Big Brother to control our lives. Naturally, I was elated when it was struck down by the Supreme Court in Ople v. Torres, 293 SCRA 144.

The Court held that President Ramos' administrative order calling for the establishment of a National Computerization Identification Reference System was an unlawful encroachment on legislative prerogatives. Even if it were not, it nevertheless could not be sustained for, more importantly, violating the constitutional right to privacy.

In his *ponencia*, Justice Reynato S. Puno expressed the apprehension that the system envisioned might be used by the government to pry into the activities of the citizen to the prejudice of his right to be left alone. Modern technology could generate a massive dossier on every individual that could "constitute a covert invitation to misuse."

The order, he said, "does not tell us in clear and categorical terms how the information gathered shall be handled. It does not provide who shall control and access the data, under what circumstances and for what purpose. These factors are essential to safeguard the privacy and guaranty the integrity of the information."

In effect, the system could be a bugging device that would enable the government to nose into every circumstance of any individual except that the eavesdropping would be authorized. It would carry the imprimatur of no less than the Supreme Court. This is practically the same illegal activity for which Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his former PAOCTF men are being investigated.

Despite the close vote (six justices struck down the order, with two others concurring only in the result but thus tilting the balance against the six dissenters), I believe the decision was correct. But I would not apply it to the present effort to resurrect the idea of a national ID system as embodied in S. No. 1760. This measure is, in my opinion, constitutional.

For one thing, the current proposal is embodied in a bill and not an administrative or executive order of the President. It therefore cannot be attacked as a usurpation of legislative power. It is Congress that will consider the bill that, if approved, will be submitted to President Macapagal for examination under her own executive authority.

The present proposal is narrowly drawn, unlike A.O. 308, which was invalid on its face as an unconstitutional delegation of *legislative* power by the *executive*. The order established "an Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC) to draw up the Implementing Guidelines and oversee the implementation of the System." The title itself showed that President Ramos was *subdelegating* his delegated legislative power in violation of the rule that what has been delegated cannot be sub-delegated. *Potestas delegata non delegari potest.*

Moreover, the Committee was given a carte blanche in the discharge of its functions. In addition to the flawed subdelegation, there were no specific conditions or sufficient standard to limit the Committee's authority. The power conferred on the body was a "roving commission" that was not (canalized within banks that keep it from overflowing). The order thus enabled the delegate to step into the shoes of the legislature and claim a power essentially and exclusively legislative.

I have gone over the bill prepared by Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., and find it does not suffer from the defects of the order. The fact that it is not an administrative issuance but a legislative proposal conforms to the doctrine of separation of powers. Moreover, unlike the annulled measure, it does not open the door to an unlimited exposure of the individual to the officiousness of the government and the malice of third parties.

The aborted Committee was supposed to consist of the head of the Presidential Management Staff, the secretaries of the Neda, health, interior and local governments, the administrators of the GSIS, the SSS and the NSO, and the managing director of the national computer center. The membership could raise nightmares of this cabal conspiring to lay bare every single aspect and detail of the life of every individual in the land.

S. No. 1760 is entitled "An Act Establishing a Computerized Voters Identification System." It requires every registered voter to have a registration card containing personal data he shall furnish the Commission on Elections. The card, to be signed by him, shall indicate his permanent identification number, which shall be entered in the central computerized database of the Commission. A person who cannot present his registration card shall not be allowed to vote.

Unlike A.O. No. 308, the bill limits the required data to the voter's name, date and place of birth, residence, photograph, signature, identification number and names of parents. Nothing more. Section 6 of the bill is especially noteworthy because it categorically provides:

"*Right to privacy*. To protect a voter's privacy, no other data regarding a voter's personal circumstances shall be included in the identification card other than those enumerated under this act. In addition, a voter's personal data and identification number, or any derivative of such number, shall not be disclosed or issued by the state or any of its agencies to a third party."

The Pimentel bill simply seeks to safeguard the electoral process against the perennial problem of flying voters. It is intended to sanitize suffrage, not to establish a police state. Let us not look for phantoms where there are none.

I have often said that the highest function of authority is to exalt liberty. But liberty itself is not illimitable. I believe we can accept a slight diminution of our right to privacy, as envisioned by S. No. 1760, in the interest of clean elections. Such accommodation is essential to the safeguarding of the ballot, which is a no less imperative objective of the free society.

A different kind of introduction

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT is not uncommon to have fulsome and extremely flattering introductions of guest speakers. Especially if the latter are high government officials, and those making the introductions are either subordinates, or occupying lesser positions in other government offices, or have actual or potential dealings with the agency that the officials head. The sycophant syndrome, one could call it.

Worse, there are times when the introductory remarks are almost as long as the main speech or begin to sound like eulogies for deceased persons given during a necrological service—which embarrasses (sometimes) the subject no end and impels him to either apologize for, or correct the exaggerations that had been thrown at a bored or unbelieving audience.

However, a forum that was held last Monday provided a refreshing and welcome change from that pattern. In the first place, the introduction of the main speaker was not even part of the program; the participants had been provided, in their kits, a written profile of the main speaker and the three discussants. However, just before the program started, one of the forum participants volunteered her services: she asked permission to introduce the speaker.

The volunteer "introducer" was neither a subordinate nor a potential beneficiary of a transaction with the agency headed by the guest speaker. She is, in fact, more well-known in her field than the guest speaker is in his.

What made her gesture even more intriguing, and gave it more impact, was that the volunteer was not even personally acquainted with the man she wanted to introduce. She had never before volunteered her services in this manner. Truth to tell, she is a much sought-after speaker herself, and receives more invitations to speak than she can accommodate. So this was a first for her.

Which is why the tale is worth telling. The Monday forum was on the tax reform program of the government, featuring a no-holds-barred discussion between representatives of civil society, business and government. The main speaker was Finance Secretary Lito Camacho, with a panel of discussants composed of Bill Luz for the business sector, Oscar Moreno for Congress and Nep Malaluan for the non-government sector.

The lady who requested to introduce Camacho was Gelia Castillo, professor, academician, author, who is one of the most respected sociologists in the country, and whose advice and services are in great demand both here and abroad. She must have received every honor that could possibly be awarded in her profession. An intellectual giant, our Gelia. One of my favorite people.

What possessed Gelia to ask (among her activities, she is a member of the executive committee of the Human Development Network, one of the organizers of the forum) to introduce Lito Camacho? Her introductory remarks give us the answer:

"When I first saw him on TV, I was instantly impressed for he is young, good-looking, and from what I've read, he is rich so he does not need to dip into our pockets! He also exuded fresh optimism, enthusiasm and zest for seeking solutions to our problems.

"However, three weeks later his good looks seemed to be slightly tarnished by our financial woes, including exchange rate policy. That he seemed worried is a positive sign to me that he cares—unlike other new appointees who are so preoccupied with their own *pa-pogi* and ventures into power that nothing else matters.

"Our speaker has a halo of integrity above his head that I am afraid his nine-figure assets will diminish to eight figures. Unlike the Makati Business Club, the fact that he is man enough not to deny that his family had done poster-making for the appropriate reason is not trivial, and I thank the INQUIRER for telling me what *pok-pok* means—I am *probinsiyana, hindi ko alam ang ibig sabihin niyan*. (*Note: Camacho avers that he has pictures of the posters displayed on the walls of their fence, and the term "pok-pok" does not appear in any of them.*—SCM)

"And contrary to what the newspapers say, he is a mother's son, not a mama's boy. There is a difference. However, if he tells his mother to stop being an activist so he could get his confirmation, I will think much less of him.

"He has studied the right courses in the right school: Harvard *yata ang tawag doon. Hindi 'yung nasa ilalim ng tulay ng* Quiapo *yoon*.

"Last but not least of his virtues is that he has a wife who has her own credentials and her own resources, so that she does not need to take over the Department of Finance in order to empower herself and to validate her social status.

"Fellow human development advocates, let us pray for statesmanlike behavior on the part of those who will confer legitimacy to the position of our secretary of finance so that we can move on to more important things in life. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Honorable Jose Isidro Camacho. He is one man to whom the adjective 'Honorable' applies."

She then turned to Camacho and addressed him: "Please don't make me a liar."

There's your answer. And also another reason why this introduction was unique. Gelia was motivated by her country's and not her own benefit. If it was Gelia's honor and pleasure to introduce Lito Camacho, I hope he realizes that he, too, should be honored and pleased to have been so introduced. And the best way to repay that honor is to live up to it.

Pinoy tourist hard put to shop in Buenos Aires

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

BUENOS AIRES—The Argentine capital is one of the greatest cities in South America and for a long time it was the toast of the Southern Hemisphere. Stories here say that the name "Buenos Aires" is a shortened version of "Nuestra Señora de los Buenos Aires (Our Lady of the Good Airs)." This name was given by Spanish explorer Pedro de Mendoza when he landed here in 1536 and found the air of the broad pampas of Central Argentina very good.

For the tourist, however, especially for the Filipino, it is not "*buenos aires*" here, since the Argentine peso is pegged at one to one to the American dollar. Thus, the Pinoy tourist is hard put to buying anything here. A can of Pepsi or Coke costs the equivalent of 76 Philippine pesos, as against P10 back home. I wanted to read some English newspapers but retreated when I saw that a copy of The New York Times at the newsstand cost $17.

* * *

This exchange rate was pegged by law in the early 1990s, a brainchild of Economic Minister Domingo Cavallo during the administration of former Peronist President Carlos Menem, in order to curb the galloping inflation. (Cavallo was recalled to the Cabinet by incumbent President Fernando de la Rua after a long absence.) The measure worked for a while, for since then the government could no longer print any new peso without a dollar to back it up. But the peso is so overvalued that the high cost of goods has hurt the salaried Argentines and the labor class, which earns a legal monthly minimum of only about $260, about as well as the seven million retirees and pensioners, some of whom have to live on $150 a month. Argentines who earn good salaries, however, are said to now prefer to take their vacations in the United States, since its cheaper to shop there. The joke is that Argentines are now called "*damedos*" in the United States, because they always buy two of each kind.

* * *

Business in Buenos Aires has been hit by hard times, and many stores advertise "*liquidacion*" while from many commercial spaces hang signs saying "*alquiler*" (for rent). Moreover, foreign investments prefer to go next door to Brazil, where the dollar fetches two and a half of the local currency. Argentina's hope of coping with the economic situation lies in jacking up productivity, but the country's main exporters are mainly agricultural, e.g., grains and beef, which are dependent on many factors.

To top it all, a huge foreign debt of $130 billion stares it in the face. The country would have defaulted a few months back had not its debt repayments been pushed back by the World Bank. Cavallo is under tremendous pressure to produce miracles after a very quiet trip to Washington earlier this week or face ouster from the Cabinet.

The world's economic leaders, including our Finance Secretary Lito Camacho, have for a long while now been quite nervous about what this country will do about its economic condition, but fewer and fewer Argentines are optimistic about their economic future.

* * *

There are three things that come to mind when Argentina is mentioned: its beef, Eva Peron and tango. Argentine beef, from which comes the *carne norte* that Filipinos love for breakfast, is perhaps the choicest in the world and well-known. But the Argentines are the biggest patronizers of their beef, of which they are notoriously proud—and for good reason. In many restaurants, the grilled beef is so tender that the waiter will tell you there is no need for a knife. As he serves your beef, he begins to cut it with your spoon to show how tender it is.

I gave up beef some years back after I began to have problems with my sugar and cholesterol, and since then I have been on a diet of fish, vegetables, fruits and whole grains. But as they say, when in Argentina one has to try the steaks, and I must admit it is absolutely great.

Argentine beef comes from the pampas, the broad grassy flatlands of the central region which have dry as well as wet areas, perfect for breeding cattle. But looking at the Argentines—and the foreigners—gobble up all that beef (some order streaks as big as a platter), I keep thinking about how people here must be suffering from high cholesterol. I have never seen so many rather obese people as here. But the good thing is that their beef is very lean. Moreover, they cook the beef over charcoal for a long time, adjusting the grill to various levels so that by the time it is served, all the fat has dripped.

* * *

The second thing that comes to mind when Argentina is mentioned is Eva Duarte Peron, the mistress and later wife of Lt. Gen. Juan Peron who was elected president in 1946 and reelected in 1952, only to be overthrown by the military in 1955. Peron was exiled to Spain after his overthrow, but was returned to power for a third term in 1973, only to die in office less than a year later. Eva, who became known to the world as "Evita," the subject of the musical of that name, was a one-time radio soap opera star and her familiarity with mass media enabled her to manipulate the masses into a wildly adoring throng which became the power base of the conjugal rule she shared with her husband. Evita died of cancer in the 1950s, and her husband's political enemy, another military man, sequestered her embalmed body after Peron was overthrown. In death, Evita made a long odyssey from South America to an obscure cemetery in Milan, to her exiled husband's house in Madrid, and finally returned to Buenos Aires in 1974.

* * *

Today it is not difficult to find traces in Buenos Aires of this legendary figure's existence. Her beautiful and glamorous face still smiles from posters and old photographs in shops everywhere. Tourists seek out her mausoleum in the cemetery of the chic Recoleta area and lay flowers at the grilled gate. Evita, who rose from the working class, lies buried among her relatives in the Duarte clan in the most fashionable area of Buenos Aires, while her husband is buried in a nondescript plot in a lower-class area in another part of town.

Visiting Filipino lawmakers, led by Sen. Rene Cayetano, who attended the world energy congress here behaved like typical tourists when they sought out Evita's resting place in between sessions at the conference. During city tours, guides will point out the balcony in the beautiful pink-colored palace at the Plaza de Mayo, from where the Perons received the throbbing adulation of the masses that frightened the traditional oligarchy and the middle classes.

(Later: The immortal tango)

I'm not Chinese

YOUNGBLOOD

Marnie Arcilla

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I'D heard about racism, discrimination and ignorance. I know my history: riverboats, cotton fields, apartheid, post-Pearl Harbor concentration camps, World War II and indios. But those were in books. That was history and it didn't affect me in the slightest. After all, it's the 21st century and we are living in enlightened times.

I must have been really living a sheltered life. And boy, was I wrong. Ignorance and stupidity are alive and well, side by side with stereotypes and discrimination.

I came to this realization quite gradually during the past five months in Canada, which is often touted as the only true melting pot.

During my first month here, I auditioned for a play, titled "Missing/Kissing." I tried out for the female lead of this play which is set in New York. The director was supposedly "blown away" by my reading of "Christine" and "really, really thought I would be perfect for the role." Too bad I was Chinese. But would I like to play the role of the Thai waitress?

Easily flattered by flattery, I decided to do the play, secure in the knowledge that my director "respected my art." (Bwahahahahahaha...) The only annoying thing was that I had to keep reminding him I wasn't Chinese.

Perfect for two roles

Then a few weeks ago, I auditioned for another play, titled "Poor Superman." It's about a gay artist who is in love with a straight man, has a Carrie Bradshaw-esque best friend, and lives with a transsexual dying of AIDS. The play is also set in New York. (Is this a storyline trend?)

Though an actor-friend of mine, who had done a run of the show in Toronto, thought I would be perfect for the best friend, I was totally obsessed with the idea of playing the transsexual. Unable to choose, I read for both.

After my reading, the director said he didn't know which one I would be good for, but he loved both my characters. He assured me that regardless of which role I would get, we would be seeing each other again.

I got a call a few days later from the assistant. "I'm sorry to inform you that you haven't been cast," she said.

"Oh, that's fine," I responded, disappointed but far from suicidal. "Thanks for calling."

"Art thought you were perfect for both roles," she went on to assure me. "He really went through a crisis. He really wanted to cast you, but, well, he decided to go for a continuity of look."

"Oh, a continuity of look. No problem. I understand. I guess my look didn't jibe with the others he wanted to cast?"

"Yeah. Too bad you're so Chinese. You were really good. Would you like to join the production staff though?"

I'm not Chinese!

Patronizing attitude

Far be it for me to question a director's reasons for picking one actor over another, but I certainly doubt that looking Asian should be taken against anyone auditioning for a role in a modern play, especially one that is set in New York. And though I completely understand the concept of continuity of look, I don't appreciate the gratuitous compliment and sympathetic, patronizing attitude toward my "talent" which is not being allowed to be displayed on account of my ethnicity.

But it really doesn't end there. Just as Gino de la Paz was questioned in Columbia whether things looked smaller to him because his eyes were small, I received the following inquiry in Quebec: "*Ca change, manger avec une fourchette* (Is it difficult for you to eat with a fork)?"

After figuring out that the man thought I could only eat with chopsticks, I informed him that I wasn't Chinese. I added that although we are accustomed to using forks in the Philippines, I couldn't understand this concept of a "house" since after all, there are so many trees to live in. That shut him up.

A co-worker, who incidentally is married to a Filipina and has two Fil-Canadian kids and went to Manila to give show biz a try, said to me one day, "You know, they should really stop importing cheap immigrant labor from the Philippines."

On my way to the supermarket, a beefy man in a dirty white shirt with rolled sleeves and a baseball cap worn backwards, sitting in a beat-up blue sedan called out to me with a strong "Hey!" and then proceeded to spit on the sidewalk. "Stupid chinks," I heard him swear as I biked away.

One night as I was waiting at a Montreal bus stop, a blonde girl, who must have been slightly drunk from her day's activities, started to shout, "Hey, Chinese people, Chinese people good worker go back to China!"

I won't even go into all the hate crimes against Arabs and Muslims that are happening in North America, or a stupid comment by a "friend" of mine in Switzerland who said he "always knew those stupid Arabs would do something like this, it's just like them." Or a guy I met one weekend who said to another guy, "You know, man, you don't have to worry about me. I don't think of you as a black."

Old story

I'm sure I'm telling a story many people already know about, but it's my first time out and my first time to be living in a place where I'm the foreigner, and this kind of discovery leaves me a bit shaken up.

What can we do? The "civilized world" has been around for thousands of years and yet, after the suffragettes, the civil wars, the witchhunts, movements and organizations like the NAACP, as well as People Power I and II (and III?), society is still divided into oppressor and oppressed. I have discovered that, with these few unintentional kicks to my ethnic identity, I have begun to turn a bit defensive and a bit paranoid. (Are you not giving me the responsibility because of my country? Or worse, are you giving me a job because you pity my country?)

I feel so retarded.

Don't get me wrong, it's not all bad news over here. I've met so many people who want to know more about our country and about our culture. I've convinced at least five people to go visit Boracay. At the same time that I've learned to cook Canadian, French, Slovak, Indian and Turkish dishes from friends, they also learned from me how to cook *adobo*. There are so many people that are friendly and warm and welcoming and who look at me as an equal. Not everyone has gone through a lobotomy with a chainsaw. It's just that one rotten apple does spoil the whole basket.

I have no solutions really, just a lot of pointless ranting and raving about something I cannot understand and therefore cannot solve. I'm no genius. After all, I'm not Chinese.

Marnie Arcilla, 24, is a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University and now works with the Canadian Institute of Health Research. She came out in several plays and musicals in Manila prior to leaving for Canada.

Campus journalism is serious business

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF anyone was still in doubt that campus journalism is serious business, he or she need only look at the case of Mark Chua. Chua went to the Varsitarian, the student newspaper of the University of Sto. Tomas, to expose anomalies in the university's ROTC system. When the story came out, suspicion immediately fell on Chua as the story's source. Days later, his body was fished from the Pasig River, his face wrapped in masking tape, his body bound and wrapped in a blanket.

If Chua's murderers thought that this would dampen the campus journalists' drive, then they had another think coming. Instead of discouraging campus investigative journalists, it may even have spurred them to do better.

It's only fitting then that the Varsitarian launched last year the National Campus Investigative Journalism Awards, established by Julio Macaranas Jr., a former campus journalist himself and retired editor of a legal publication in Washington, D.C. The challenge to campus journalists is to come up with investigative pieces that are not only socially significant and constructive, but also based on scrupulous, responsible and fearless research.

At the awards rites last Thursday, however, it was the rather disheartening task of the organizers to announce that the board of judges, composed of experienced journalists, didn't find any of the entries up to their standards. "Let's look at this as a challenge to do better for next year's competition," urged Prof. Chrisma Caroline Bangaoil-Calumpang, an adviser of the Varsitarian.

* * *

THE CAMPUS Investigative Journalism Awards capped a three-day long National Campus Journalism Fellowship, dubbed "Inkblots 2001," which gathered over 300 student journalists from all over the country. In the course of the fellowship, the students sat through lectures and participated in workshops on various aspects of campus publishing.

I was quite impressed with the roster of participants, some of whom came from as far away as the Visayas and northern Luzon. Congratulations to Varsitarian adviser Lito Zulueta and the staffers, led by editor in chief Reyann Kong, for pulling off such a huge managerial and logistical challenge!

Keynote speaker at the fellowship dinner was Sheila Coronel, executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, who spoke on the role that investigative journalism, and the press in general, can play in meeting the challenge of good governance and development.

It occurred to me, though, that a campus paper may not always be the best breeding ground for groundbreaking investigative journalism. For too many school administrators, a student publication is nothing more than a feel-good organ, a repository of puff pieces and harmless youthful scribbling. Perhaps for campus investigative journalism to flourish, school administrators should first revise their expectations of a campus publication, and learn to live with inquisitive and unrelenting reporters, the lifeblood of our profession.

* * *

HERE is one journalist willing to put his name and credibility on the line. Angelo Palmones, a news executive with dzMM, the AM radio station of ABS-CBN, has filed a libel suit against Robert Rivero, the controversial former media consultant of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Rivero is the "star witness" in an ongoing Senate investigation of allegations that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo used PCSO funds to help the campaign of four administration senatorial candidates. As part of his revelations, Rivero released a list of media people who he said were on the administration payroll, receiving regular retainers from the PCSO. The former PCSO consultant would later retract portions of this list, but the list had become public by then. As far as I know, Palmones is the first journalist on that list to stake his reputation by filing a libel case against Rivero.

"I've known him a long time," Palmones says of Rivero, who had worked with him in another radio station before Palmones transferred to dzMM. As Palmones recalls, Rivero had come to him some months previously to recruit him to help in a "project" that the opposition was going to launch against the Macapagal administration. "Apparently, he was under the impression that some opposition politicians had already 'talked' to me," says Palmones. "But I told him that no one had approached me, and that I couldn't help him."

Palmones says he thought that was the end of it, until he found his name among the media people in the supposed payroll. "I have no choice," he says about the libel case. "Rivero is an old friend, but he can't go around dragging innocent people into his mess."

* * *

IT must be noted that Rivero was known as a Malacañang operative until he came under investigation by the PCSO board after several media outfits accused him of demanding commissions in exchange for ad placements.

But while I might have been willing to lend Rivero's list some credence, his credibility was absolutely shattered for me when he mentioned some columnists who had allegedly "sold out" to the administration in exchange for their spouses getting appointed to government. The columnists and their spouses can very well defend themselves, but I found Rivero's reasoning fatally flawed. He might have been believable if those spouses were not eminently qualified for their positions in the first place. And if the columnists concerned had not already shown independence of mind in their long careers.

What a wide net Rivero has cast indeed, condemning journalists wholesale. Let's see how he wiggles out of the libel suit, and what sort of evidence he will produce to extricate himself from this mess.

The taking of the plaza

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

ON SEPT. 22, 1762, 22 ships bearing no flags passed by Mariveles and appeared near the beach in Parañaque, a league and a half from Manila. The Spanish colonial government did not expect to be attacked by another European nation and was thus content with having a plaza capable of resisting the Moros of the area and natives of surrounding countries. For that reason the plaza was deteriorating.

Upon hearing the news regarding the unknown armada, Archbishop Antonio Rojo, interim governor of Manila, sent an official to demand an explanation from the commander of the squadron. The official returned the following day with Generals Cornish and Draper's counterdemand that Intramuros be surrendered immediately.

The archbishop replied that he would lose his life first.

With that the British opened hostilities. Supported by their ships' artillery, the troops disembarked on the 23rd and took over the gunpowder plant between Malate and Parañaque. They also captured the churches of Malate, Ermita and Bagumbayan and burned some houses that covered the open fields.

Two squads of soldiers left the plaza but they were met by gunfire coming from the church of Santiago in Bagumbayan and had to retreat. The following day, the cannons on the bulwarks of San Diego and San Andres opened fire but with little effect because the enemy had taken refuge behind the church. On that same day, a galley coming in from Palapag was captured but the *nao* from Acapulco, the *Filipino*, was able to escape with the silver from the Galleon Trade and the *situado* to Navotas.

That night 50 riflemen from the Veteranos contingent and some militiamen and 800 lancers who were mostly natives left the plaza to attack the British. The battle continued throughout the night. On the 25th, residents witnessed skirmishes on horseback and the bombardment of the plaza begun by a battery of three short barreled cannons installed behind the church of Santiago. The forces in the plaza retaliated but their ammunition was of inferior quality and didn't do much harm.

At 8 the following morning, various native contingents, *mestizos* and *lanceros* threw themselves with such ferocity on the British that the latter was forced to cede some of their positions. But supported by a garrison, they drove back the locals.

During this battle, cannons from the *baluarte* of San Diego killed some of the British but an English official bearing a white flag and accompanied by the nephew of the archbishop who had come from Acapulco on the galleon approached the plaza in the midst of the battle. Doubtless it was foolhardy of the archbishop's nephew to try to cross the battleground. It is said that native troops opened fire on the group and then took refuge in Puerta Real. The British complained bitterly of this infraction of accepted norms of conduct.

Three more short-barreled cannons were added at the same time that the British called for a ceasefire to bury their dead that afternoon. On the 28th they continued the bombardment, firing on the flagship but without success because their mortars could not reach the target.

Two short-barreled cannons were installed in the bulwark of San Diego and the firing continued on both sides until Oct. 2. The British now had eight cannons on land while their navy attacked from the sea. Guns were installed in the bell tower and walls of Santiago. Despite that, only seven were killed and 20 injured.

Then around 5,000 native soldiers arrived from the various provinces to help in the defense. Of this number, 2,500 were from Pampanga. The contingent from Bulacan was the merriest, with the soldiers acting as though they were on their way to a fiesta, shouting *"Viva la fe de Dios!"* and *"Viva el Rey de España, Carlos III!"* throughout the journey. Before dawn, they advanced on the British in three columns: one toward the church where the battery was located, others toward the garrison in Malate and Ermita and still others toward the beach.

The encounter that ensued was bloody. Several British officers died, and in retaliation, 60 captured Pampangos were strangled.

When dawn broke on Oct. 4, the British intensified the firing of the batteries and bombardment. Various buildings were now on fire. So many bullets were falling it felt like a hailstorm.

On the 6th, the British breached the wall, killed the guards in Puerta Real and, through it, their troops entered the city. They took over the bulwarks, roads, the governor's palace and the garrison, profaned the temples and committed all sorts of excesses.

The principal column proceeded to Fort Santiago where the governor, members of the Ayuntamiento and some Spaniards had taken refuge. The fort raised the white banner and offered to surrender, but the British colonel insisted that the governor capitulate in his palace.

The sacking of the city lasted 40 hours. More than 300 people died like lice. Some tried to flee by swimming across the river, but British soldiers manning the bulwarks of San Gabriel and Sto. Tomas gunned them down. On the Spanish side, a sergeant major, two captains, two subalterns, 50 soldiers from the Veteranos and 30 militiamen died. More than 400 were wounded.

(Data from "Apuntes Historicos de la Provincia Agustiniana del Santisimo Nombre de Jesus de Filipinas" by P. Bernardo Martinez.)

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Wage hike means higher cost of living

IN CONNECTION with the issue of the wage hike being demanded by labor groups, I wish to point out a couple of things that both the pro-labor sector and the business leaders seem to forget or are deliberately omitting in their respective arguments.

The first is the fact that a compulsory wage hike will benefit only those workers that are formally employed. Without even factoring into the statistics the number of workers who will inevitably lose their jobs when some establishments close shop as a result of the wage hike, these workers constitute a minority in the country.

The greater majority of Filipinos are either informally employed (like house help, store help, waiters and waitresses) or piece workers whose income depends on their production or the number of clients they service (like seamstresses, tailors, weavers, barbers, mechanics and even sex workers) or self-employed or small-time entrepreneurs (like sidewalk and market vendors, farmers, fishermen, jeepney, taxi, tricycle and bus drivers and conductors) or unemployed for various reasons like being unskilled, unqualified, too young, too old or too sick

The other is the fact that businessmen will surely pass on the burden of the wage hike to their patrons, clients and customers. And while only the formally employed and their dependents will initially benefit from the increase in wages, every man, woman and child of all ages, whatever the livelihood, and even those with little or no income at all, will have to pay the higher prices that will be the consequence of the pay hike.

Both the supposedly pro-labor people and those representing capital have reason to conceal these facts. Those with labor want to gain public sympathy for their demands, which will not happen if the public realizes it will bear the burden of the pay hike.

Businessmen, on the other hand, want to make it appear like they are sacrificing part of their own incomes for the sake of the workers, when the truth is that they might even come out ahead for when they increase prices they usually maintain the percentage of their profit margin so that the added outlay increases the base on which they compute their target return on investment.

Even those who will get the pay hike will see the effects of increased income negated or diminished by the rise in their own expenditures. So they should not push for an astronomic hike like P125. Any wage hike can have only one certain, inescapable effect: a higher cost of living for every Juan, Juana, Juanito and Juanita dela Cruz.—**ENRIQUE DE JESUS, Quezon City**

Taiwan was never part of PRC

I WISH to reveal some historical facts and hope that the record can be set straight with regard to the claim of Philrich Co of the St. Jude Catholic School (Letters, 10/23/01) who says Taiwan does not deserve a seat in the United Nations because it is not a nation.

The Republic of China (ROC) was founded in 1912 in Nanking, in mainland China. In 1949, the People's Republic of China (PRC) was established after the communist triumph on the mainland. As a consequence, the ROC government was forced to move to Taiwan island and has since exerted sovereignty over the Taiwan-Penghu-Kinmen-Matsu area.

History tells us very clearly that the ROC government on Taiwan has never been a part of the PRC. Since 1949, the PRC has never represented the people of Taiwan in the United Nations. Neither has it exerted jurisdiction over the people of Taiwan nor collected even a single cent as tax from them.

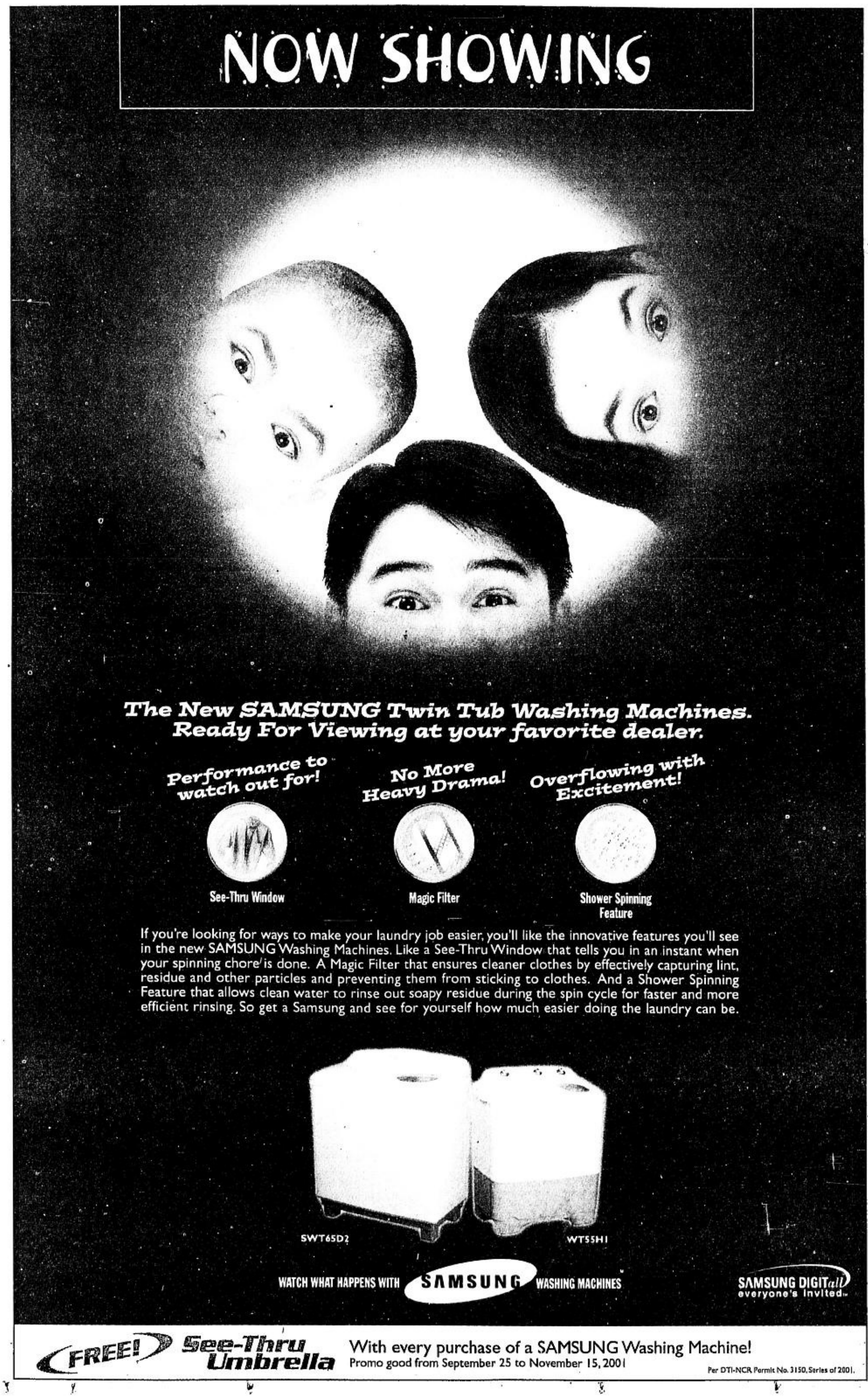
But most important of all, the ROC on Taiwan is a free and democratic country that respects human rights and loves peace. On the other hand, as all the world knows, the PRC is totally the opposite.

At present, the ROC maintains formal diplomatic relations with 28 countries, including the Vatican. It also maintains warm but unofficial ties with 120 countries, including the Philippines. It is one of the founding members of the United Nations but was forced to walk out in 1971 when the mainland was accepted as a member. Taiwan is now asking the United Nations to reconsider admitting it as a member because it believes that its 23 million people deserve to be represented in the international body.

If the ROC on Taiwan is the 17th largest economy in the world, a dynamic and vibrant democracy with an unswerving commitment to human rights and is more than willing to assist the commitment to human rights, and is more than willing to assist the less developing countries in the world, who can say that it is not a full-fledged nation? If the ROC on Taiwan with its own territory, population, government and foreign relations is not a nation, what else is?

Still, I am glad that young people like Co are interested in the issues that concern both sides of the Taiwan Strait. But I believe that it would be better if they open their mind and do more research on the historical facts and the present international situation.—**OWEN CHU, secretary, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines**

LETTERS



Sex is not for commercialization

I BEG to disagree with the view of Carlos Siguion-Reyna quoted in the article last Oct. 21, "Cases vs Sutla dismissed."

The decision of the Sandiganbayan to dismiss the case filed by Renato and Teresita Luz against the Movie, Television Review and Classification Board is not final and executory. The couple still has the option to elevate the case to the Supreme Court.

The Sandiganbayan was reckless and acted improperly in dismissing the case. There was never a trial. What a mockery of justice!

Siguion-Reyna said, "More importantly, the decision recognized that 'Sutla', taken and viewed in its total context as a whole, is a decent and reputable film with a serious literary, redeeming and artistic value."

How can a film that is full of sexual overtones be decent, serious, literary, etc.? Tell it to the marines.

Is sex in a movie okay for it is an accepted norm? Sex was created by God for a good purpose. But this shall only be done in the context of marriage and in privacy. Sex is not for commercialization and for public display.

The Revised Penal Code, Article 200, says that the penalties of *arresto mayor* and public censure shall be imposed upon any person who shall offend against decency or good custom by any highly scandalous conduct not expressly falling within any other article of the code.

Article 201 (on immoral doctrines, obscene publications and exhibitions and indecent shows) imposes the penalty of *prision mayor* or a fine ranging from six to twelve thousand pesos, or both, on those who:

(1) Publicly expound or proclaim doctrines openly contrary to public morals.

(2) In theatres, fairs, cinematography or any other place, exhibit, indecent or immoral plays, scenes, acts or shows, whether live or in film.

"Sutla" extremely violated these clear provisions of law with its arrogant display of pornography. It was unfair of the Sandiganbayan to dismiss the case without seriously considering the merits of the case.

Further, Siguion-Reyna argued, "The Sandiganbayan ruling on 'Sutla' blazes a trail for enlightened film classification and vindicates those in the creative community who have remained true to the fight for the constitutional right to free expression."

Freedom of expression under the Constitution is not total and absolute. It has limits and responsibilities. People who have no regard for laws of God and of the land cry for free expression, but they are doomed to fall.

Siguion-Reyna belongs to a creative community? Creativity does not promote nudity, pornography and destroy life. Creativity has refinement, art, elegance, style. It promotes life, harmony and better relationship.

I enjoin our people, most especially the parents, the youth and those in high government positions, to take serious action against pornography for it seriously destroys our moral values, family and country.

Pornography is a stalker. It is everywhere—in films, magazines, tabloids, plays, advertisements, etc.

Let us not wait for a catastrophe like what happened to the World Trade Center before we take concrete action.—**ALDO P. FILOMENO, 45 Mahogany St., Phase VI, Pleasant Hill, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan**

Ten-hour trip to get pension

I AM a Government Service Insurance System pensioner, and I have to go to the GSIS branch in Cotabato City to get my check—a 10-hour trip from Davao City. To avoid the rigor and expenses of going to Cotabato every 20th of the month, I decided to avail myself of the GSIS program where pension payments are made through banks. Being a resident of Davao City, I requested the GSIS Cotabato to issue a letter of introduction addressed to the Land Bank branch in Davao informing them that I wanted to be enrolled in the above-mentioned program.

That was in December 2000. But until this time my pension has not been transferred to the Land Bank Davao.

I therefore would like to appeal to the GSIS management, to please act now on my request. I am 71 years old and I may not be around when my request is approved.—**EDUARDO BATOBALONOS, ATO Compound, Sasa, Davao City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

3 new US anthrax cases diagnosed

WASHINGTON—As many as three new cases of anthrax were diagnosed in the United States Thursday, as scientists sought further insight into a particularly lethal sample of diseased bacteria sent to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle.

US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher confirmed that a worker at a remote mail-handling facility in Sterling, Virginia, was in hospital with inhalation anthrax, the most serious of the strains of infection by the diseased spores.

The first case "has been confirmed as inhalation anthrax," Boucher said, bringing to 14 the total number of confirmed cases of anthrax.

Another employee at the facility, some 30 km from the US diplomatic agency, was "getting particular attention at a hospital," Boucher said, after manifesting flu-like symptoms—similar to those experienced by people infected with the diseased spores.

The State Department has 80 contract employees working at the State Annex 32 mail handling facility, the main processing center for all letters bound for the agency. They have all been tested for anthrax and are all being treated with the antibiotic ciprofloxacin, determined to be the most effective in thwarting the disease, Boucher said.

All six of the State Department mail handling facilities have been closed for testing, and mail delivery, including correspondence passed through the diplomatic pouch system, has been suspended.

The classified pouch system will continue, Boucher said earlier.

The processing centers handle mail that passes through the Brentwood mail facility, where four people have been infected with inhalation anthrax. Two have died.

Elsewhere, the New York health department said another NBC News employee there had "probably" contracted skin anthrax, which is far easier to cure than inhalation anthrax.

The employee "directly opened and handled" a letter sent to anchor Tom Brokaw postmarked Sept. 18 that infected a co-worker, who was confirmed infected with skin anthrax on Oct. 12.

The US Postal Service also reported anthrax was found on sorting machines in the "path that tainted letters would have traveled" at the main mail clearinghouse in New York.

Meanwhile in Florida, where the first fatality due to inhalation anthrax occurred Oct. 5, two postal workers were hospitalized for further tests to determine whether they were infected with the diseased spores.

Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge, meanwhile, said the sample of anthrax mailed to Daschle Oct. 15 was more "concentrated, and therefore more lethal than some of the other specimens used in the bioterror attack.

"It is highly concentrated. It is pure, and the spores are smaller. Therefore, they're more dangerous, because they can be more easily absorbed in a person's respiratory system," Ridge told reporters from the White House.

Anthrax sent to the New York Post, by contrast, was "more coarse and less concentrated than the anthrax in the Daschle letter," he said. Sufficient residue of anthrax sent to NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw and to a Florida tabloid was not available to permit testing, Ridge added.

There has yet to be enough evidence collected to determine whether a foreign state, group or individual had manufactured the anthrax, the former Pennsylvania governor said. *AFP*

Nuclear scientists questioned on ties with Taliban

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani authorities interrogated two leading nuclear scientists Thursday, trying to determine if they had been in contact with the leader of Afghanistan's Taliban militia, federal government and defense officials said.

Sultan Bashiru-Din Mehmood, a pioneer member of Pakistan's nuclear program, was the first nuclear scientist detained since Pakistan began efforts to obtain nuclear technology in the early 1970s.

Mehmood was detained Tuesday by intelligence agents in the eastern city of Lahore. At least one other scientist, a friend of Mehmood's, was also being held, Interior Ministry sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Thursday that the two are being questioned about whether they have any links with Afghan figures, including Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar.

The Interior Ministry identified the other scientist as Abdul Majid, who worked with Mehmood for years at the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

Neither man has been charged with a crime, officials said.

Nuke secrets

Efforts to reach government officials and confirm the detentions on the record were unsuccessful Thursday night.

A senior government official who insisted on anonymity said Mehmood is not suspected of being linked to terrorism suspect Osama bin Laden or his al-Qaida network—something the scientist's relatives said was impossible anyway.

"My father is not so irresponsible," said Mehmood's son, Asim Mehmood.

Any suggestions that the scientist leaked nuclear secrets are "absolutely wrong," the son said.

"My father has been handling sensitive matters for a long time, and he is a true patriot," Asim Mehmood said.

Officials said Mehmood, who was awarded Pakistan's prestigious Sitar-e-Imtiaz award in 1998, was being treated properly.

They did not say how long they expected to hold him. No charges have been filed, though Pakistani law gives authorities broad latitude to detain people without charges.

Mehmood and his friends, most of them scientists and engineers, have been working on rehabilitation projects in war-ravaged Afghanistan. *AP*

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Israel bends, pledges West Bank pullout

JERUSALEM—Israel bowed to strong international pressure early Friday and pledged to withdraw troops which launched a bloody invasion of six self-rule West Bank towns, but said the Palestinians would first have to help guarantee the safety of its people.

However, the UN Security Council, including Israel's main ally the United States, called unanimously late Thursday for the tanks and troops to leave the autonomous Palestinian territories "immediately."

"Israel remains engaged in the peace process and does not want to maintain its army indefinitely in the autonomous sectors," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office said after a meeting of the mini-cabinet and other ministers.

"Israel is however at the same time bound to ensure the security of its citizens and consequently this withdrawal will be made in coordination with measures taken in this direction by the Palestinian Authority," it said.

It added that "a trilateral security meeting will be held Friday" between Israel, the Palestinians and US officials.

Israeli troops swept into the West Bank towns in a crackdown on suspected militants after tourism minister Rehavam Zeevi was assassinated on Oct. 17.

The killing was claimed by a radical group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), in revenge for the "liquidation" of its own leader in an Israeli helicopter gunship attack in August.

Palestinian officials say more than 50 Palestinians have been killed in the massive push now in its ninth day. The six towns of Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus, Tulkarem, Qalqilya and Jenin remain surrounded by tanks.

The invasions led to intense international pressure to end what the UN Middle East envoy called the conflict's "most dangerous" period in a decade.

Washington notably wants the region calm so it can keep Arab backing for its strikes on Afghanistan and the man it holds responsible for the deaths of some 5,000 people in New York and Washington, Osama bin Laden.

And in a sign of growing impatience with the Jewish state, the UN Security Council said all its members wanted "the immediate withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Area A," referring to West Bank areas under Palestinian control.

After a closed session lasting about an hour and a half, however, it stopped short of making the demand legally binding.

It also strongly endorsed a four-point statement issued in the Gaza Strip earlier by the UN special envoy to the Middle East, Terje Roed-Larsen, and envoys from the United States, the European Union and Russia.

That statement called on Israel to "immediately withdraw from Area A, halt extra-judicial killings, ensure greater restraint by the IDF (army), and fully respect the ceasefire" signed on September 26 by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

However, the statement added: "The international community recognizes the Palestinian Authority as the only entity responsible for security in the Palestinian territories."

It also urged Arafat to "make a concerted effort to ensure full and strict compliance with the Palestinian Authority's ceasefire orders, including through arresting those who defy his orders and taking further steps against terrorist organizations." *AFP*

VIOLENCE amid de-escalation: Israeli soldiers aim at Palestinian gunmen during a commando operation at the West Bank village of Beit Rima Oct. 24. Israel said six Palestinians were killed in the raid, while a Palestinian medic, ordered by Israel to come and pick up the bodies, said he counted nine bodies lined up by soldiers. AFP

Death toll in Thai blast reaches 13

PAK CHONG, Thailand—Thirteen people were killed and at least 60 injured Thursday when massive explosions tore through a Thai army weapons warehouse, ignited by a truck which overturned at the site, officials said.

"As far as I know, about 13 people were killed... and 60 were hurt," Interior Minister Purachai Piemsombun said, adding that two people were severely injured.

"But that's based on initial reports right now," he said, echoing concerns that the toll could rise much higher once emergency crews reach the warehouse complex where fires raged out of control.

Deafening explosions that first erupted at 9:30 a.m. continued into the night, sending fire balls and plumes of black smoke shooting as high as 100 meters into the sky.

By nightfall the blasts had faded to dull booms, and the deadly rain of bomb casings, bullets and shrapnel which carpeted surrounding fields and roads for kilometers around had begun to ease.

As dozens of rescuers were prevented from reaching the depot by the inferno, stretcher bearers dodged the deadly missiles to sprint into the surrounding district and pluck out badly burned survivors.

Hospital officials said army officers and villagers were among the injured, who were mostly treated for cuts and burns suffered on the perimeter of the powerful blast.

Purachai ordered a 20-km exclusion zone around the site in Nakhon Ratchasima province, a 45-warehouse complex which housed rocket-propelled grenades, artillery shells and other ammunition. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Swiss Alps tunnel inferno

AIROLO, Switzerland—Swiss police said on Friday 120 people were still reported missing by their families nearly two days after a fire in the St Gotthard tunnel in southeast Switzerland, in which at least 11 people are known to have died and it was feared the toll would rise. Rescuers reported progress Thursday in tackling the fierce blaze caused by a truck collision in the longest road tunnel in the Alps. Firefighters managed to reduce temperatures that had soared above 1,000 degrees Celsius and penetrate to heart of the disaster zone in the tunnel, where part of the roof had collapsed. They reported seeing 15 trapped vehicles, many of them emptied of occupants who had either managed to escape or perished while seeking safety. *AFP, AP*

POW escapes after 50 years

SEOUL—A South Korean prisoner-of-war held in North Korea since the war which split the peninsula nearly five decades ago has escaped the communist state for home, the South's chief spy agency said Friday. The 71-year-old former South Korean soldier was captured by the North's army during the 1950-53 Korean War and had worked at a mine until August when he fled, the National Intelligence Service said. The agency did not reveal his name, but said his return put the total number of POWs escaping the North at 22 over the past seven years. Seoul reported the first escape of a POW—Cho Chang-Ho—in 1994, but the communist state continues to deny it holds any POW's. *AFP*

15 killed in Kashmir raids

SRINAGAR, India—Islamic militants on Thursday stepped up attacks on security forces in Kashmir, with land mine explosions and gunbattles claiming 15 lives, including those of two children. Three soldiers and two militants were killed when armed guerrillas ambushed an army convoy near the Banihal pass on the highway that connects Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, with Srinagar, the summer capital. The guerrillas, who were hiding along in the mountains on either side of the highway, opened fire as the convoy was about to enter the Banihal tunnel. The troops retaliated, killing two militants, but not before the three soldiers were killed and nine others injured, police said. *AP*

Nigeria revenge attacks

ZAKI-BIAM, Nigeria—The smell of death lingered Thursday over the deserted streets of this burned-out town—one of seven communities where state officials say soldiers bent on revenge destroyed homes and killed at least 130 people in eastern Nigeria. Bloated bodies torn by bullets littered the eerily empty streets, where stores, schools and homes were looted and burned to the ground. State officials say the raids that began late Monday were reprisals for the abduction and killing of 19 soldiers by Tiv tribal fighters earlier this month in Benue state, where villagers have been waging a decade-long ethnic feud. *AP*

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Papal contrition seen turning around China-Vatican ties

BEIJING—Pope John Paul II's public admission of "errors" by the Roman Catholic Church in China could signal an imminent resumption of talks between the Vatican and Beijing, an analyst said Friday.

But it could take years more before ties between the Beijing and the Holy See were normalized, said Beatrice Leung, an associate professor of politics at Lingnan University.

"Negotiations will begin very, very soon," she predicted.

The timing is good to resume talks because it would take one to two years for negotiations to come to any fruition and by then a new generation of Chinese leaders will be in power, Leung said.

That could make it easier for Beijing to bury some of its old disputes with the Vatican.

China's imminent entry into the World Trade Organization and its coming of age as an increasingly influential player in international politics would also play a part in kickstarting negotiations that have stalled for years, Leung said.

"China is a big country now. If you're a major power, you must have influence in the international community," Leung said.

"The Vatican, Holy See, is very influential in Europe. Europe will say: 'Why is it that China is a great power and the Vatican is so small, but China always refuses to have relations with it?'"

Taiwan

Taiwan is a key sticking point. Beijing has insisted that in order to have relations with the Vatican, the Vatican must cut off ties with its rival, which China considers a renegade province unworthy of diplomatic recognition.

The Vatican is the only remaining state in Europe that recognizes Taiwan.

While it is thought the Holy See does not wish to sever relations with Taiwan, it downgraded relations with Taipei years ago, sending only a chargé d'affaires to the island instead of a higher ranking official.

Any solution to the problem will have to chart a course through more than four decades of bad blood and mutual mistrust.

Relations between Beijing and the Vatican have been rocky since 1958 when Beijing named two bishops without the approval of Rome, a move that led to the cancellation of diplomatic relations between the two.

The idea that another state can appoint senior officials within China horrifies Beijing, leading to the other condition it imposes for ties to resume, a pledge the Vatican will not "interfere" in the country.

It was following the break-off that the Vatican opened diplomatic ties with Taiwan, a move which further outraged the communist authorities.

Talks

Talks to normalize relations took until 1987 to even begin, with off and on negotiations going on for the past 14 years, apart from a suspension by the Vatican after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy protestors.

Relations reached a particular low last October when the pope created the first Chinese Christian saints, a move which outraged Beijing.

China described the individuals concerned as "criminals" and warned that the "insult on the Chinese people" would further delay any rapprochement.

China's official "patriotic" Catholic Church has around four million faithful. It does not recognize the authority of the pope and is administered by the communist government.

In contrast the underground church, loyal to the Vatican, has about 10 million followers. Its priests are regularly imprisoned, adding still further to tensions. *AFP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Cop links socialite to anti-Lacson plot

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Embattled police officer Supt. John Campos revealed that socialite Baby Arenas offered him a big amount of money for him to testify against Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Campos claimed that Arenas sent emissaries who arranged for their meeting shortly after the start of the Senate investigation of Lacson in early August.

Campos said the emissaries were two officers who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy who are "friends" of Arenas and a congressman.

But he declined to name names. He also declined to mention the amount being offered to him through the emissaries.

Campos said he refused to meet with Arenas. He refused to disclose the date of the supposed meeting. The Senate hearings involving Lacson's alleged link to money laundering and syndicated crimes began in early August.

"There was somebody who approached me, she is the... of a former president. Perhaps you know her. She is a socialite, she's Baby Arenas," Campos said in Cebuano during an interview with radio station dyLA last Wednesday night.

Campos, a Cebuano, arrived in Cebu last Tuesday to attend to his sick father now confined at a hospital here.

Campos claimed that after the emissaries of Arenas approached him, he got a call from the chief of staff of a pro-administration senator asking him to also pin Lacson down.

Campos said the senator's aide, whom he described as a "friend," asked him to testify against Lacson. "All you have to say is (that) Lacson is a drug lord," Campos quoted the senator's chief of staff as saying.

"I told him what would be my proof since Lacson and I have not (been) going together since 1992. So I refused," Campos added in the dialect.

After that incident, Campos said he told his friend not to call him anymore. Since then no one had asked him to testify against Lacson.

Campos said he did not disclose the alleged offer of Arenas and the chief of staff of a senator because he did not want to make more enemies.

He said it was possible that Malacañang had a hand in this controversy to divert the issues against the First Gentleman.

According to Campos, he was surprised why he was always linked to Lacson because if he has a close friend in the Senate, it is not Lacson but Sen. Ralph Recto.

Campos claimed he quietly helped Recto in the last elections by asking his friends to support Recto. He even guarded Recto's wife, Vilma Santos, during their campaign in Cebu last May, Campos added.

Campos believed it was Mary "Rosebud" Ong who had a hand in making up stories against him to pin him down after he distanced himself from her.

The police officer maintained that after he is cleared by the Senate, it will be his turn to file charges against Ong, Armed Forces intelligence chief Victor Corpus, his erstwhile friend Remus Garganera and other witnesses who implicated him in illegal drug activities and other criminal activities.

Bus crash kills 21 persons

BUENAVISTA, Agusan del Norte—At least 21 persons were killed here while six others were injured when an LCI bus from Cagayan de Oro City bound for Butuan City rammed into four houses and the Assembly of God Church along the national highway here on Thursday evening.

SPO1 George Maestrado, who led the investigation, said the bus was cruising the highway around 8:45 p.m. when it swerved on the left side of the road, and crashed on the houses and the church, killing 16 people instantly.

Most of those who died were attending a prayer vigil. One of the bus passengers, identified as certain Aida Daquipil, of Butuan City was also killed.

Two of the injured victims died while being treated at the MJ Santos Hospital while two others expired at the Agusan del Norte Provincial Hospital in Butuan City.

Busdriver Ulysses Geralde, 35, a resident of Tagum City voluntarily surrendered to the Butuan City Police Office but was turned over to the Buenavista Municipal Police Station.

Geralde refused to talk to the INQUIRER but he earlier told probers that he was drowsy at the time of the incident.

Felix Cloribel, who witnessed the incident said the bus, was cruising at a speed of about 120 kph when it overtook their family-owned jeepney.

"He was over-speeding like he was in a race," he added.

Neighbors immediately rushed to the scene to help pull out the victims from the wreckage despite heavy rains.

"It was horrible," Evangelina Macula, chair of Barangay 2, said. *Ma. Kristina Cassion with a report from Butch D. Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Southern part of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 21°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/27/01

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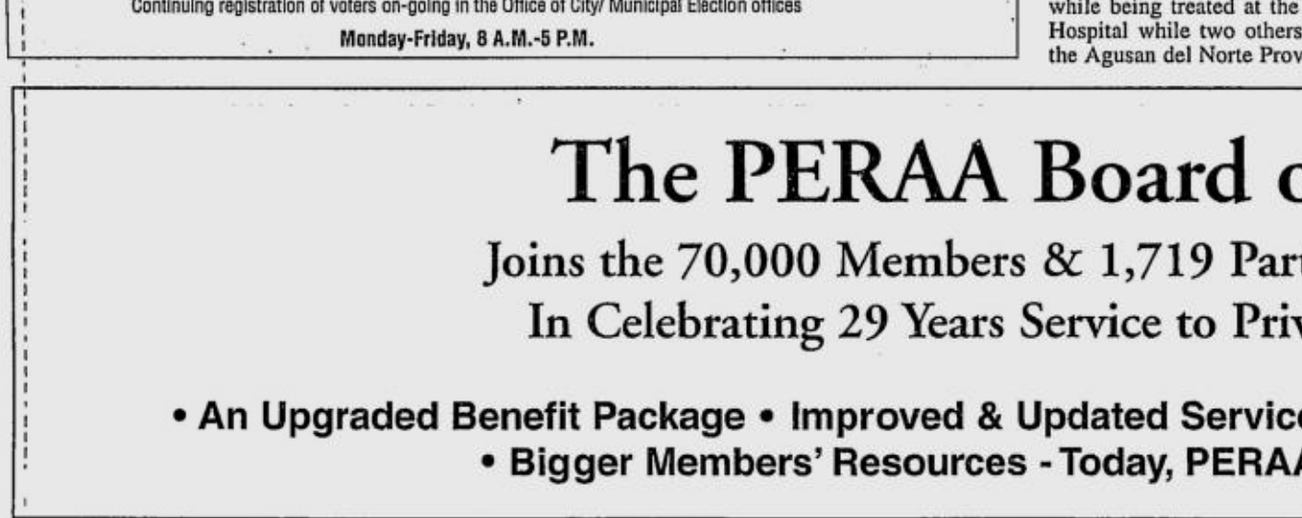

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Genaro V. Japos, Urios College, *2ndPlace - Teaching A*
Benilda Z. Narcelles, Univ. of Baguio, *2ndPlace - Teaching B*
Anita R. Tagadlud, Ateneo de Zamboanga, *3rd Place - Teaching A*
Jose L. Adrius, Claret School, *3rd Place - Non-TeachingB*
Carmen P. Benares, Univ. of St. La Salle, *2ndPlace - Non-Teaching A*
Juanito L. Dimalanta, Gunguna Nat'l Colleges, *1st Place - Non-TeachingB*
Tita D. Doza, Univ. of St. La Salle, *2ndPlace - Non-Teaching B*
Alma A. Eleazar, Urios College, *1st Place - Non-Teaching A*
Imelda G. Pagtolun-an, Xavier Univeristy, *3rd Place - Non-Teaching A*

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Dos Palmas workers hold farewell party for selves

BY JOFELLE P. TESORIO
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—"Thank you very much, Dos Palmas," said a streamer at the docking area of the Dos Palmas island-resort here on Wednesday. It was signed by at least 100 employees.

The employees had a farewell party from sunset on Wednesday and were set to hold it until sunrise on Thursday.

But instead of serving guests, which they had done since 1998, they helped themselves as the resort's last guests.

GOODBYE, Dos Palmas. FILE PHOTO

It is not for sale but Dos Palmas is closed for an indefinite period beginning Tuesday.

This was the decision of the management of the posh resort here after suffering huge financial losses since the kidnapping of 20 of its guests and staff, including three Americans, last May 27.

Ivan Spencer Lim, Dos Palmas general manager, said that were it not for the Sept. 11 bombings on the United States, they would not have decided to close down.

They were very optimistic to go back to normal operations but the recent terrorism-related events worsened the situation.

Even after the kidnapping, the resort did not retrench any employee.

Many thought that the closure was a sudden decision because Dos Palmas even hosted the swimsuit competition of Ms Earth 2001 last week.

This international pageant was one of the many campaigns to lure foreign tourists to visit Dos Palmas and to show that Palawan is still the safest place in the country.

Last year, it hosted the Ms Asia Pacific pageant.

Lim said the owners, including his family, had decided on the closure since June this year.

The operation was prolonged because they were expecting tourist arrivals to improve.

Before Dos Palmas decided to close, the high-end resort hotel had only about 10 percent bookings. In the same season last year, it had 90 percent bookings.

Lim added that the company would not sell the resort for now since they have not decided what to do with it.

Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes also expressed sadness over the resort's closure.

He said the local government had been helping Dos Palmas in its promotion but he cannot blame the management for closing down because of the firm's financial performance. He still believed that Dos Palmas would finally get back on its feet.

Despite this, the provincial government will continue its aggressive tourism campaign in response to the crisis.

The city government likewise expressed optimism that the resort will reopen in due time.

Dos Palmas is located at the heart of Honda Bay where many islands are located. It is about an hour ride by pump boat from the mainland of Puerto Princesa.

Gloria opens P600M Boracay infra projects

BY NESTOR BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—President Macapagal-Arroyo gave a much needed shot in the arm for the tourism industry by inaugurating multimillion-peso infrastructure projects here and urging more support for domestic tourism.

The President led the inauguration of the P600 million Boracay Environmental Infrastructure Project of the Philippine Tourism Authority together with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. The project is funded by a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation through the 19th Yen Package.

The project has three components—water supply, sewerage systems and solid waste disposal facilities—considered critical in preserving the island's environment amid the steady increase in tourist arrivals.

Ms Macapagal launched the water system project that will be fully operational by next month. The water supply system is designed to meet the demands of Boracay Island and Barangay Caticlan (in mainland Aklan) to around 6,000 cubic meters per day by 2015.

Water from the Nabaoy River will pass through the water treatment plant in Caticlan and through the underwater pipeline into a 2,000 cubic meter ground reservoir in Barangay Manoc-Manoc in Boracay Island. Potable water will be distributed to concessionaires through a 2-km piping system. Individual connections will be provided to households and commercial establishments.

The sanitation and sewerage system is more than 65 percent complete while the solid waste system is targeted for completion by 2002 targeted to address the resort-island's garbage problem until 2005.

The President also led the groundbreaking ceremony of the P30-million Boracay Circumferential Road Project that stretches nine kilometers.

She also awarded a check worth P760,930 from the Department of Social Welfare and Development Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services for such projects as farm to market roads in the towns of Makato, Malinao and New Washington.

She also witnessed the turn-over of checks worth more than P800,000 from local government units of Kalibo, Lezo and Batan towns to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. representing their 50 percent counterpart in the Medicare Para sa Masa program.

The President also urged more support to domestic tourism to help create jobs and encourage small businesses.

She said many tourist attractions like Camiguin, Palawan, Davao, Zamboanga, Cebu and other "pearls" are waiting to be tapped. "We should invite friends from other countries to visit the Philippines and see these sites."

Known for its white beaches, Boracay enjoys an upswing in tourist arrivals despite the kidnappings in other resorts and persistent coup rumors.

'Lumads' ask Army for guns vs NPAs

DAVAO CITY—Members of indigenous communities here are asking the government to supply them with firearms against what they said is a continuing threat from communist rebels.

Datu Joel Ulad, a tribal leader of Marilog District, said they should also be allowed to form their own village defense system.

He said communist rebels have already killed a number of lumads in recent days but the community was unable to defend itself because of the lack of weapons.

Ulad said they have nobody to run to for defense of their families from members of the New People's Army demanding food and revolutionary taxes.

He said if they were only armed, rebels would hesitate to harass their communities.

"Many lumads had been killed. Development in the farms fell. It caused us anxiety and brought us a crisis," Ulad said of the rebels.

Lt. Col. Eduardo del Rosario, commander of the 73rd Infantry Battalion, based in Malagos, Baguio District here said the military is still trying to look into the possibility of giving guns to the tribal people.

He admitted that the military is undermanned.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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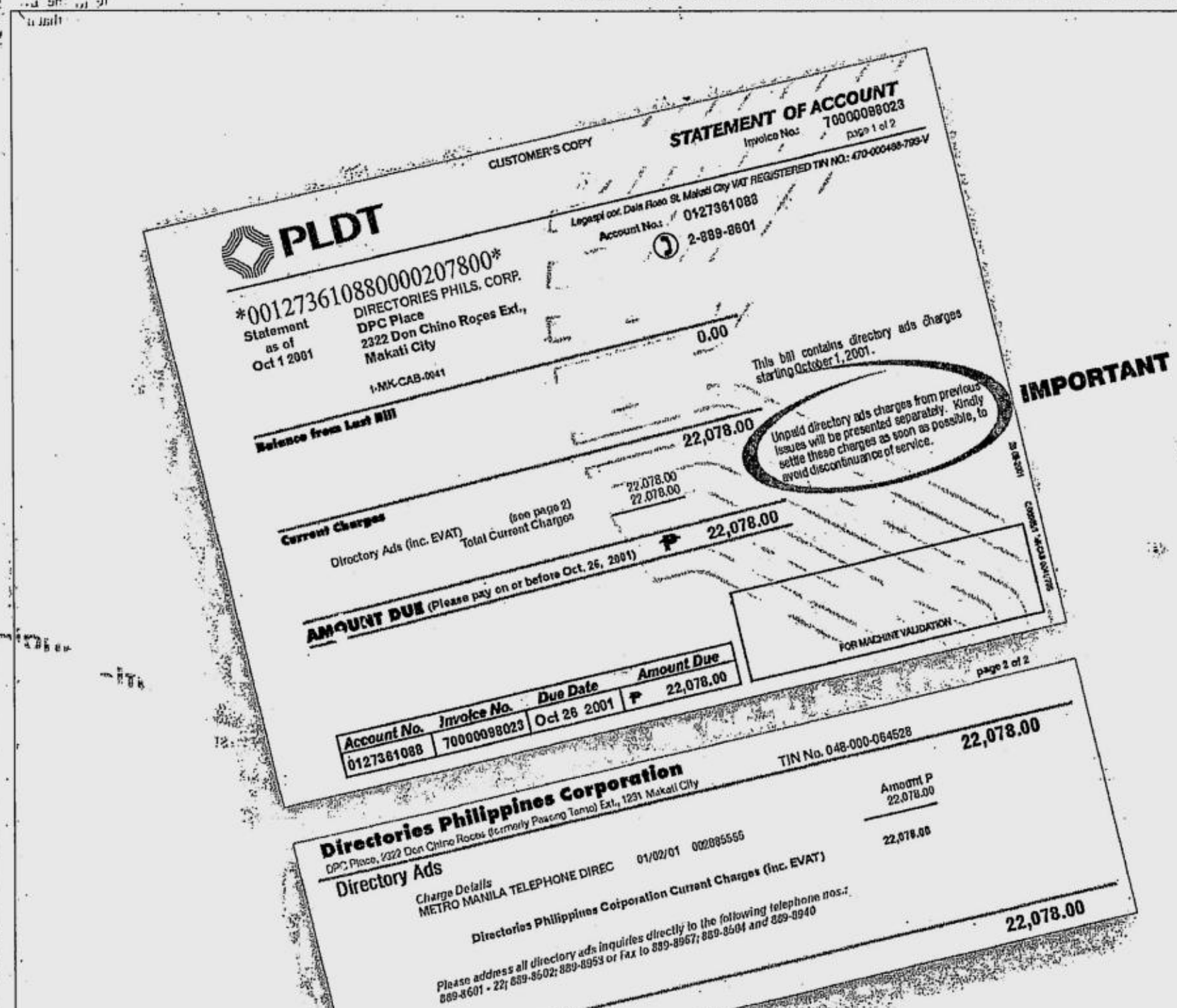
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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT
Invoice No.: 70000098023
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Legaspi cor. Dela Rosa St. Makati City VAT REGISTERED TIN NO.: 470-000498-793-V
00127361088000020780 0
DIRECTORIES PHILS. CORP.
DPC Place
2322 Don Chino Roces Ext.,
Makati City
Account No.: 0127361088
2-889-8601
Statement as of Oct 1 2001
1-MK-CAB-0041
Balance from Last Bill 0.00
This bill contains directory ads charges starting October 1, 2001.
IMPORTANT
Unpaid directory ads charges from previous issues will be presented separately. Kindly settle these charges as soon as possible, to avoid discontinuance of service.
Current Charges
Directory Ads (inc. EVAT) (see page 2) 22,078.00
Total Current Charges 22,078.00
AMOUNT DUE (Please pay on or before Oct. 26, 2001) ₱ 22,078.00
FOR MACHINE VALIDATION
Account No. 0127361088 | Invoice No. 70000098023 | Due Date Oct 26 2001 | Amount Due ₱ 22,078.00
page 2 of 2
Directories Philippines Corporation
DPC Place, 2322 Don Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) Ext., 1231 Makati City
TIN No. 048-000-064528
Directory Ads
Charge Details
METRO MANILA TELEPHONE DIREC 01/02/01 002885555 Amount P 22,078.00
Directories Philippines Corporation Current Charges (inc. EVAT) 22,078.00
Please address all directory ads inquiries directly to the following telephone nos.: 889-8601 - 22; 889-8502; 889-8953 or Fax to 889-8967; 889-8504 and 889-8940
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Courage. Integrity. Loyalty.

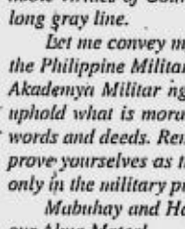
These are virtues hammered into the hearts and minds of the cadets and the whole of the officers and members of the PMA as we push towards a goal of an excellent military service in the country.

After more than a century of existence, the Institution with all its legacies and traditions, still stands as a firm and proud symbol of our nation - immaculate, impressive and glorious. It continues to develop in the cadets a steadfast quest for excellence by instilling in them the noble virtues of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty as they become exemplary members of the long gray line.

Let me convey my warmest congratulations to the officers, personnel, and members of the Philippine Military Academy as you celebrate the 103rd Foundation Anniversary of the Akademya Militar ng Pilipinas. May you have the courage to fight all that is wrong and uphold what is morally right. Practice the virtue of integrity by being honorable in your words and deeds. Remain loyal as you serve God, our country, and our people. Continue to prove yourselves as the guiding light of the nation in its pursuit for unity and progress not only in the military profession but also in nation-building.

Mabuhay and Happy Anniversary! Carry on with the proud and glorious traditions of our Alma Mater!

ANGELO T REYES
Secretary



CHIEF OF STAFF
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

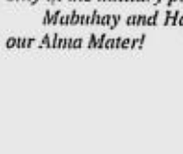
For more than a hundred years now, the Philippine Military Academy has been producing great soldiers and leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The Academy remains steadfast and true to its mission "To instruct, train and develop the cadets so that each graduate shall possess the character, the broad and basic military skills and the education essential to the successful pursuit of a progressive military career."

As we celebrate another milestone in the proud history of PMA, let me extend my sincerest congratulations to all the men and women of this institution. Let us be proud being part of this institution that molds the men and women of the Long Gray Line who exemplify Courage, Loyalty and Integrity. I exhort you to endeavor towards the realization of the PMA's reputation and pride as Asia's premier military institution.

And for our future leaders, may you be blessed with the wisdom and strength of character in the manifestation of true leadership and in the pursuit of your careers. After all, this is all for the glory and love of our country.

Congratulations and a happy celebration to all!

DIOMEDIO P VILLANUEVA
General AFP



SUPERINTENDENT
PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY
Fort del Pilar, Baguio City

The Philippine Military Academy relates its beginnings to the Akademya Militar that was established by General Emilio Aguinaldo on October 25, 1898 in the fair lands of Malolos, Bulacan. The incipient institution was founded "as the nation's preparation for defense and preservation of our freedom . . ."

Today, one hundred and three years later, only the name of the institution has changed. The Philippine Military Academy remains steadfast with its commitment of preparing for the defense and preservation of our freedom — only that it is no longer struggling. Indeed, we can only be grateful and look how far we have gone as an institution.

I share the joy of this celebration of the 103rd Foundation Anniversary with the rest of the Academy stakeholders — the Filipino nation, the City of Baguio, the proud parents, the Officers, Enlisted Personnel, Cadets and Civilian Employees of the Command, and most especially, the alumni of this institution. The feathers on the cap that PMA has earned through the years were won because of our collective and relentless efforts.

During this momentous occasion, allow me to encourage you to carry on. It is only with the same zeal, enthusiasm, and teamwork that we have demonstrated can we be assured of our continued success. And it is only with the same spirited perseverance that can we be assured that we can ultimately attain our dreams and aspirations.

To everyone who contributed nothing but their best for the Philippine Military Academy, you have all the reasons to be proud on this 103rd Foundation Anniversary.

RUFO A DE VEYRA
Major General AFP

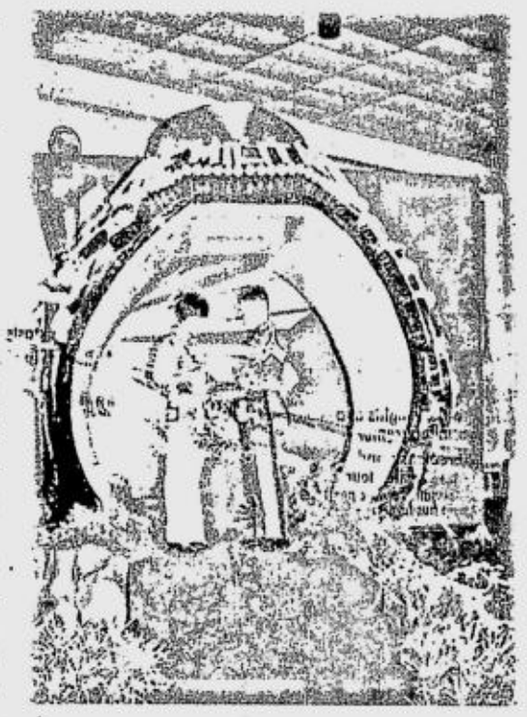
Brief History of the Philippine Military Academy

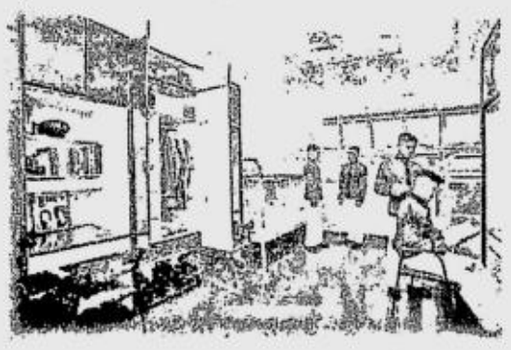
The Philippine Military Academy (PMA) relates its beginnings to the *Akademya Militar ng Pilipinas*, founded on 25 October 1898 in Malolos, Bulacan pursuant to the decree of the then Revolutionary President Emilio Aguinaldo. The Akademya was founded primarily to provide complete and quality instruction to future officers who will lead the regular Army of the Philippines after the revolutionary heroes won the independence. Kapitan Manuel Sityar was the Akademya's first Director.

On 21 December 1936, the military training school was formally established as the Philippine Military Academy pursuant to Commonwealth Act No. 1 or the National Defense Act. The Academy was relocated from Camp Allen to its permanent site in Loakan Heights, which was eventually named Fort del Pilar as a fitting tribute to General Gregorio H del Pilar, whose ideals and attributes the institution upholds.

Since its incipient stage of metamorphosis, PMA had been graduating male Officers until the passage of Republic Act No. 7192. With the enactment of the law, female applicants were accepted and integrated into the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines in 1993. The first batch of female graduates was commissioned as line officers in the Regular Force, Armed Forces of the Philippines in 1997.

The PMA celebrates its anniversary on 17 February 1905 as it traces its humble beginnings from the Philippine Constabulary School at the Old Sta. Lucia Barracks in Intramuros, Manila where it once stood. The school, which was later renamed Philippine Constabulary Academy, was established by the American Colonial Government to train future officers for the Philippine Constabulary. Cesar P. Pobre PhD (PMA Cl 1952), in an archival work in 1998, revealed that the present Academy was founded in 25 October 1898. His findings were submitted to and validated by the National Historical Institute. The act of the Institute brought to the fore Presidential Proclamation No. 35 signed by President Fidel V. Ramos on 13 October 1998. From then on, PMA's Foundation Anniversary that used to be celebrated every 17th of February was moved to the 25th of October and "every year thereafter".





SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

26 October 2001

0800H - Arrival Honors for
RADM PASTOR R RAMOS AFP
Acting Flag Officer-In Command, PN
IF Proceed to Melchor Hall

0815H - Inauguration of Center for Physical Development
Proceed to Longayban Hall

0845H - Arrival Honors for
LT GEN BENJAMIN P DEFENSOR AFP
Commanding General, PAF
IF Proceed to PMA Library

0900H - Inauguration of Center for Academic Excellence
Proceed to Longayban Hall

0930H - Arrival Honors for
LT GEN JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS AFP
Commanding General, PA
IF Proceed to HTG, Lim Hall

0945H - Inauguration of Center for Character Development
Proceed to Longayban Hall

1015H - Joint signing of Memorandum of Agreement

1045H - End of Activity

27 October 2001

0830H - Arrival Honors for
LTGEN JOSE M CALIMLIM AFP
Acting Chief of Staff, AFP

0845H - Arrival Honors for
HONORABLE ANGELO T REYES
Secretary, Department of National Defense

0900H - Arrival Honors for
HE GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

0915H - Unveiling of "Sundial Covenant' Marker

0935H - Motor to Relics Point
Unveiling of In Defense of the Motherland Monument
(Venue: Alumnae Memorial Park)

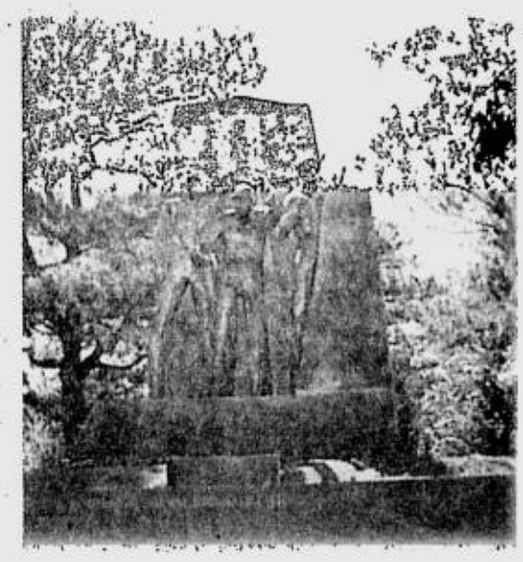
0950H - Proceed to Longayban Hall

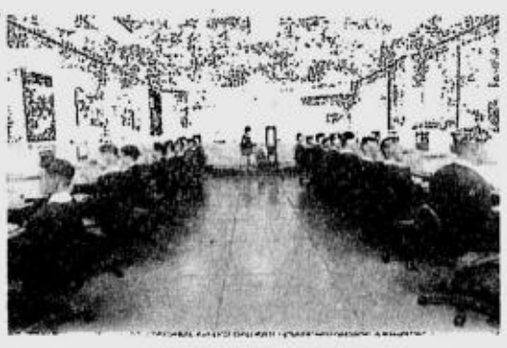
1000H - Presentation of PMA Terrain Model
- Presentation of Plans for the Construction of Mosque at PMA

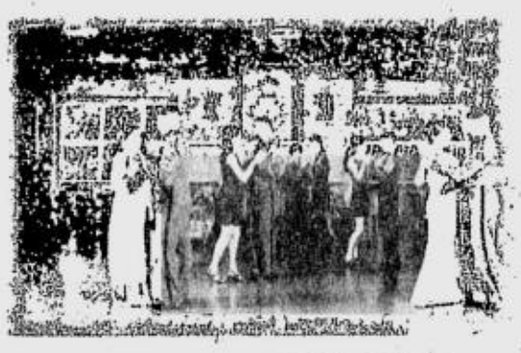
1015H - Parade and Awarding Ceremony
- o Entry and Formation of Troops
- o Parade Amenities
- o Inspection of Troops
- o Awarding Ceremony
- o Presentation of the MOA to PGMA by Superintendent, PMA
- o Pass-in-Review
- o Battalion-in-Mass Formation
- o Introduction of the Guest of Honor by the
HON ANGELO T REYES
Secretary, Department of National Defense

Message by the Guest Of Honor
HE GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

End of Activity







Oh proud and bold you stand; Bright beacon of the land;
Let loyal sons proclaim; Thy glorious name.
Wherever we maybe; O'er land or deep blue sea;
We'll raise a song for thee; Academy, O hail to thee.*

** First Stanza of the PMA Alma Mater Song*

IN DEFENSE OF THE MOTHERLAND MONUMENT

The three figures, behind whom the Philippine flag flutters, represent the land, sea, and air forces whose hierarchy of command and leadership has been comprised of mostly Academy graduates. On their shoulders rest the burden of responsibility for the country's stability, defense, and security, even as they share in the overall effort of national development.

For all the courage they have shown in the field of battle, the integrity displayed as military professionals, and the steadfast and unwavering loyalty to God, country, and people. This monument humbly seeks to preserve the memory of the men and women of the Philippine Military Academy.

Alay mula sa Department of Tourism at PHILTOA para sa mamamayang Pilipino!

From as low as P1,100 3D/2N per person (exclusive of fare)

WOW PHILIPPINES
Weekend Packages

Paghandaan at pag-ipunan ang darating na long weekend holiday sa October 31 - November 2 ! Yayain ang buong pamilya o barkada at mag-getaway na! FROM AS LOW AS P1,100 3D/2N PER PERSON (exclusive of fare), puwedeng -puwede nang magbakasyon-grande! Join ka na!

"Pag maraming turista, masusunod ang pakay ng ating gobyerno. May trabaho, may edukasyon, may tahanan, may pagkain sa bawat mesa."

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

"Mga abot-kayang bakasyong pampalakas-pamilya, alay ng Department of Tourism sa lahat ng Pilipino."

RICHARD J. GORDON
Secretary, Department of Tourism

From MANILA

BACOLOD
P1,400.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: City Tour, Silay Heritage Tour
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P5,500
Roundtrip sea fare per person: P3,180

BAGUIO/BENGUET
P1,300.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a dormitory/center
- 2 breakfasts and 1 dinner
- Balatoc Mines Tour

Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P3,330
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P440

BAIS CITY
P2,850.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts, 1 packed lunch and 2 dinners
- Dolphin and Whalewatching Tour (including tour guide, spotter, and boat fee)
- Swimming and snorkeling activities
- Roundtrip airport transfers
- Land transfers

Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P5,558
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,650

BANAUE
P1,700.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Viewpoint and Hiwang Tour

Optional Sights & Activities: Banga-an Village, Batad Village, Bontoc & Sagada
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P5,000
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P500

BOHOL
P4,550.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a resort (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Lunch on River Cruise
- Bohol Countryside Tour (Blood Compact Shrine, Baclayon Church & Museum, mahogany man-made forest and green farmland in Bilar and Batuan, Chocolate Hills)
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P4,998
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,530

BORACAY
P3,300.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a resort (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Island hopping, swimming and scuba diving
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P4,600
Roundtrip ferry (Caticlan-Boracay-Caticlan) per person: P60

BUTUAN
P1,100.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Butuan Regional Museum, Balangay Shrine, Agusan River, National Shrine of the Philippine Flags, St. Joseph Cathedral, Butuan Diocesan Museum, 500-year old Bitaug Tree, Magallanes Market, Magallanes Municipal Museum, ancestral houses, museum, Laksoy wine making, Agusan River cruise
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P7,736
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P3,200

CAMIGUIN
P5,540.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights homestay and at a resort (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 snack and 2 dinners
- Roundtrip airport/wharf transfers
- Trek to Tuasan Falls,
- Agri and aqua culture demonstration
- Local guide

Add: Roundtrip airfare (via Cagayan de Oro) per person: from P6,478
Roundtrip sea fare (Cagayan de Oro-Camiguin-Cagayan de Oro) per person: P400

CEBU
P3,500.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a resort (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Cebu City Tour (Fort San Pedro, Magellan's Cross, Basilica Minore del Santo Niño, Casa Gorordo Museum, Taoist Temple)
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P5,138
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,530
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P2,218

CORON
P6,400.00 4D/3N

Inclusions:
- Overnight stay at a resort (2 persons in a room)
- Full board meals
- Roundtrip passage (2 nights via WG&A-Manila-Coron-Manila)
- On site transfers
- Coron Island tour, Kayangan Lake, Maquinit Hot Springs, Gutob Bay Island Hopping, Kayaking
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

DAVAO
P2,300.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Aldevinco, Davao Museum, Crocodile Farm, San Pedro Church, public market
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P6,478
Roundtrip sea fare per person: P3,520
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P2,870

GENERAL SANTOS
Package 1
P1,500.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: General Santos Fish Port, Philbest Canning Corp., RD Export & Cold Storage, Shopping
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P7,876

Package 2
P1,800.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: General Santos Fish Port, Philbest Canning Corp., RD Export & Cold Storage, Shopping
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P7,876

ILOILO
P1,192.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Museo de Iloilo, Calle Real, Plaza Libertad, Fort San Pedro, Jaro Disctrict (Jolandoni Ancestral House, Jaro Cathedral), Molo District (Molo Church, Asilo de Molo), Villa de Arevalo (Flower Gardens, Sinamay Dealer), Tigbauan Church, Guimbal Town (Guimbal Church, Plaza), Miag-ao Church, Pavia Church, Sta. Barbara Town (Sta. Barbara Church, Golf Course, Lace Making Cottage Handicrafts), Lizares Mansion, Guimaras Island (Trappist Monastery, Factory of Scented Candles)
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P4,898
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,650

LAGUNA/RIZAL
P2,200.00 2D/1N

Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 1 breakfast
- Private transportation
- Visit to Antipolo Church, Pakil (Our Lady of Turumba), Blanco Museum, Nemiranda Gallery, Pacheco Gallery, Poote Woodcraft

Optional Sights & Activities: Visit to Lumban Embroidery (boat ride P500 per person)

LAOAG
P4,950.00 4D/3N

Inclusions:
- 4 days/3 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 3 breakfasts
- On site transfers
- Half day Laoag City Tour, Pagudpud Tour with Lunch, Vigan Tour with Lunch, Calesa ride in Vigan

Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P3,600
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P1,000

LEYTE
P1,600.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a resort (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Sto. Niño Shrine and public market
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P5,138
Roundtrip bus fare per person : from P1,714

PAMPANGA
P3,950.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Bacolor Town Tour
- Angeles City Rolling Tour
- Clark Rolling Tour with visit to Clark Museum and Museung Kapampangan
- Shopping

Add: Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P162

PANGASINAN
P1,600.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts

Optional Sights & Activities: Our Lady of Manaoag, Señor Divino Tesoro Church, Lingayen Gulf Memorial, Hundred Islands, swimming, shopping
Add: Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P440

PUERTO PRINCESA
P1,800.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Palawan Museum, Crocodile Farming Institute, city market, War Memorial, Cathedral, St. Paul Subterranean National Park
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P7,256
Roundtrip sea fare per person: P2,290

SUBIC BAY/OLONGAPO
"Shop Til You Drop"
P1,388.00 2D/1N

Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 1 breakfast
- Roundtrip airconditioned transportation
- Subic Base Tour, Shopping

SUBIC BAY/OLONGAPO
"Shop Til You Drop"
P3,235.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 or 3 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airconditioned transportation
- Subic Base Tour, Shopping

SURIGAO
P1,100.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Tour of Day-Asan Floating Village, Sagisi Island, Historical Sights, Mabua-Pebble Beach; Cave Exploration
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P6,936

TAGAYTAY/TAAL HERITAGE TOUR
P4,400.00 2D/1N

Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 1 breakfast
- Taal Heritage Tour (Leon Apacible Historical Landmark, Marcela Marino Agoncillo Museum & Monument, Basilica of San Martin de Tours, Church of Our Lady of Caysasay, shopping for native products and delicacies)
- Tagaytay City Tour (People's Park, Japanese Garden, Tagaytay Picnic Grove, Mushroom Burger Restaurant & Plantation, Residence Inn Mini Zoo, Flower Farm)
- Private transportation

TAGBILARAN
P1,500.00 3D/2N

Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a resort (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip Panglao-resort transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: St. Joseph Cathedral, Bohol National Museum, Torralba Market
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P4,998
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,530

TUGUEGARAO
Whitewater Kayaking and Rafting Discovery Adventure
P5,000.00 2D/1N

Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- All equipment necessary (kayaks, rafts, helmets, lifevest)
- Travel insurance coverage of P100,000
- Transportation in and around Tuguegarao City

Optional Sights & Activities: Callao & Sierra Caves, Pinacanauan and Chico River Rapids, bat cave, whitewater kayaking, rapelling
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P4,776
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P600

Whitewater Kayaking and Rapelling
P5,000.00 2D/1N

Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at a hotel (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- All equipment necessary (kayaks, rafts, helmets, lifevest)
- Travel insurance coverage of P100,000
- Transportation in and around Tuguegarao City

Optional Sights & Activities: Callao & Sierra Caves, Pinacanauan and Chico River Rapids, bat cave, whitewater kayaking, rapelling
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P4,776
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P600

From CEBU
(same itinerary and inclusions as indicated in the Manila packages)

BACOLOD P1,400.00
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P3,956
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P376

BAIS CITY P2,850.00
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P3,956
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P376

BOHOL P4,550.00
Roundtrip airfare per person: P1,112
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P200

BORACAY P3,300.00
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P3,900
Roundtrip ferry (Caticlan) per person: from P60

BUTUAN P1,100.00
Roundtrip airfare (Cebu- Davao) per person: from P4,498
Roundtrip bus fare (Davao-Butuan) per person: from P500

CAMIGUIN P5,540.00
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P2,600
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P650

DAVAO P2,300.00
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P4,498
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P1,970
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P854

GENERAL SANTOS P3,500.00
Roundtrip airfare (via Davao) per person: from P5,178
Roundtrip sea fare (Davao-Gen. Santos) per person: from P680
Roundtrip bus fare (Davao-Gen. Santos) per person: from P250

ILOILO P1,192.00
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P4,396
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P690

LEYTE P1,600.00
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P420
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P298

SURIGAO P1,100.00
Roundtrip airfare per person: P2,336
Roundtrip sea fare per person: P730
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P367

TAGBILARAN P1,500.00
Roundtrip airfare per person: P1,112
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P200

From DAVAO
(same itinerary and inclusions as indicated in the Manila packages)

BACOLOD P1,400.00
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498
(Cebu-Bacolod) per person:P3,956
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Bacolod) per person: from P376

BAIS CITY P2,850.00
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498
(Cebu-Bacolod) per person:P3,956
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Bacolod) per person: from P376

BOHOL P4,550.00
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: P4,498;
(Cebu-Tagbilaran) per person: P1,112
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Tagbilaran) per person: from P200

BORACAY P3,300.00
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498
(Cebu-Caticlan) per person: P3,900
Roundtrip ferry (Caticlan) per person: from P60

BUTUAN P1,100.00
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P500

CAMIGUIN P5,540.00
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498;
(Cebu-Camiguin) per person: P2,600
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Camiguin) per person: from P650

CEBU P3,500.00
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498

GENERAL SANTOS P3,500.00
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P680
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P250

ILOILO P1,192.00
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P7,296

LEYTE P1,600.00
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498;
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Tacloban) per person: from P420
Roundtrip bus fare (Cebu-Tacloban)per person: from P298

SURIGAO P1,100.00
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: P4,498
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Surigao) per person: P730
Roundtrip bus fare (Cebu-Surigao) per person: P367

TAGBILARAN P1,500.00
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: P4,498;
(Cebu-Tagbilaran) per person: P1,112
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Tagbilaran) per person: from P200

From Subic/Clark

Airfare (Clark-Manila-Clark) per person: P2,700
(Clark-Cebu-Clark) P5,338

Bus fare: (Subic-Manila-Subic) per person: P266

From Laoag

Airfare (Laoag-Manila-Laoag) per person: P3,600

Bus fare: (Laoag-Manila-Laoag) per person: P1,000

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The pack and Cebu's 'debt creep'

BY JUAN MERCADO
Cebu City

COMPLACENT Cebuanos have been jolted by a report documenting that the scantily reported "debt creep," within foreign loans by Cebu City Hall, now exceeds P4.36 billion. It is still climbing.

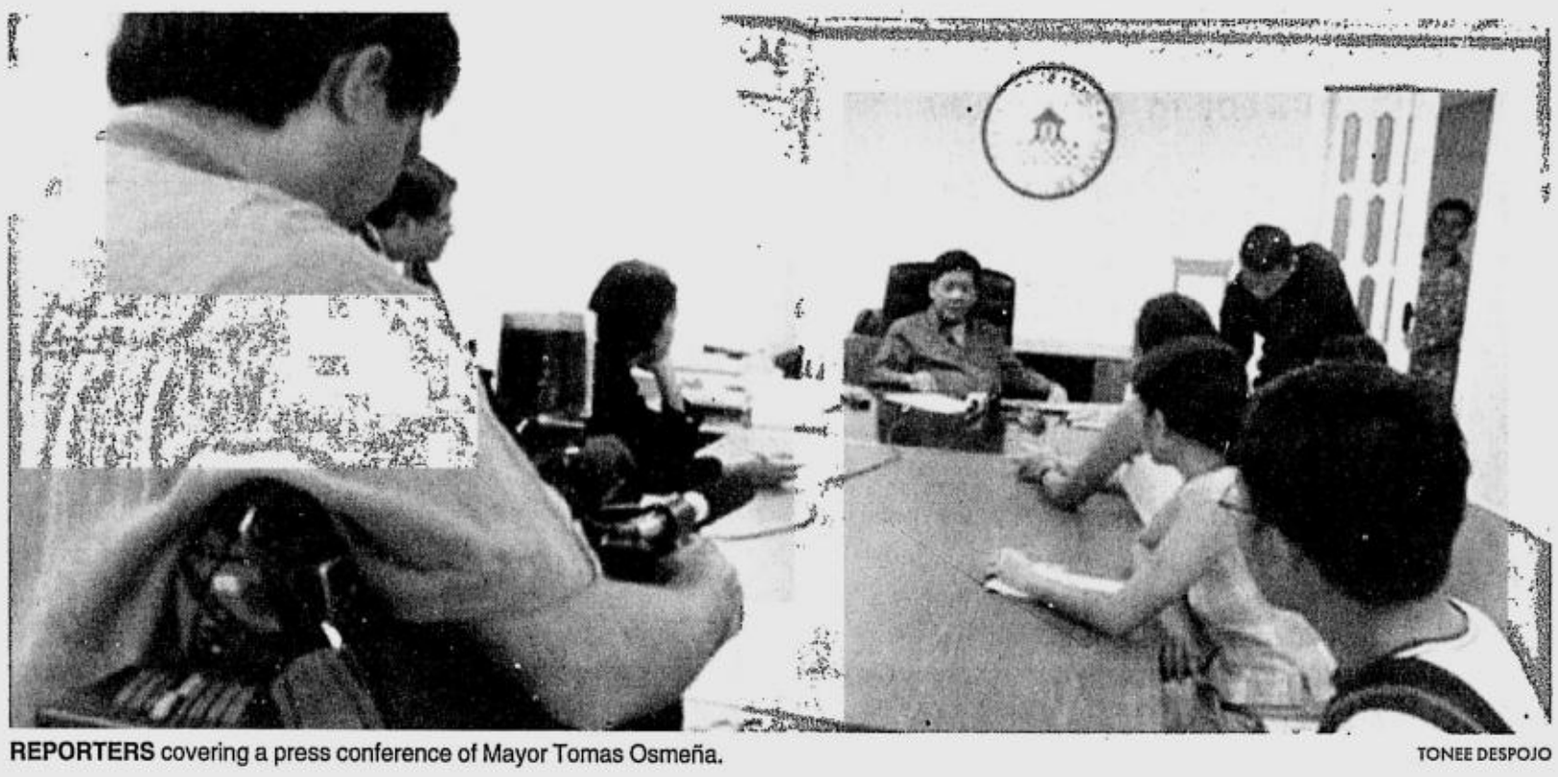
That straps on each of the 718,821 men, women and children, who live within city borders an IOU of P60,654—"roughly the annual salary of a laborer," the independent Cebu Daily News reported.

"If local debts are tacked on, per-head IOU for Cebuanos now totals P65,970," the paper adds in a special report on "Mayor (Tomas) Osmeña's First 100 Days."

The report reveals:

"Payables for loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), for foreign assisted projects, will now cost P4.36 billion... Local loans incurred by (the) city government have also reached P382.11 million."

Even for "the south's urban dowager," P4.36 billion is a lot of shekels. "The same sum could underwrite, for 107 years, shoe-string budgets of all city hospitals," the CDN editorial pointed out. "It could run the City Traffic and Management Office for 143 years."



REPORTERS covering a press conference of Mayor Tomas Osmeña. TONEE DESPOJO

Docile pack

True. But this investigative report's significance lies elsewhere. Until now, City Hall smothered information on Cebu's "debt creep."

The large media (34 AM and FM stations; five dailies and eight television stations) here are also increasingly uneasy about "pack reporting." That allows hard news to fall between the cracks.

In an earlier editorial, The Freeman flayed reporters who pad together in a docile deferential pack. No one is scooped in this mutual accommodation. But no one gets the solid stories either. Reporting is whittled down to a common denominator: a shared press release.

The dominant Sun-Star Daily set a special meeting for its staff to analyze this "insidiously convenient" practice. Reporting by pack, editor in chief Pacheco Seares notes, absolves everyone from asking the tough questions. Fax, text and phone also erode race-to-race supervision by editors.

"Telling the truth is often the loneliest of businesses," read an International Press Institute note, circulated within the Sun-Star newsroom. "And here's the dislocation: the journalist we admire most belongs to no pack."

In ferreting out the P4.36 foreign debt burden, the CDN stressed editorially: "the primary task of the journalist is to tell people things they cannot ask in a survey."

That's necessary because in his first and second terms, Mayor Osmeña stonewalled on Tokyo IOUs he contracted.

In the early 1990s, Osmeña proclaimed: Cebuanos need not shell out a single centavo in repayments to the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund... The national government would instead pick up the tab.

The fat lady rises to sing

That slammed into public skepticism. When Japan presents the bills, for both principal and interest, of the Metro Cebu Development Program, "that's when the fat lady rises to sing," a Cebu columnist noted.

"It is the city that's repaying the loans," Mayor Osmeña reluctantly admitted after a June 11, 1996 MCDP board meeting. But he consistently avoided giving details.

His Jan. 9, 1997 open letter claiming "our grandchildren's children" would be grateful for the loans gave no details. Neither did his inaugural speech. His first 100 days report instead gave priority to legalizing cockfighting.

One of the "black holes" that stud the Osmeña administration is lack of a policy on debt management.

But independent reporting has revealed that P2.4 million is now being chewed up by interest payments (Osmeña agreed that City Hall pick up the tab for foreign exchange fluctuations.)

The Cebu Daily News report adds: over the "next three years, the debt servicing of the city government will range from P230 million to P316 million annually."

"Inherited debts bug Osmeña II," CDN editorialized. "After this special report, His Honor will be hard-put to deny most of those debts were dumped by Osmeña I."

Investigative reporting underscores the press' role as "an early warning system in a democratic society." But that system will function only if reporters work by the realization that, all too often, packs can be manipulated. They can be given or denied access.

"Beware the call of the pack," The Guardian Group's editorial director Peter Preston once warned. "We are never more dangerous to ourselves and (the) readers we're supposed to serve, than when we create those little worlds that make our working lives a softer touch."

China's next 'revolution'

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena. V. Guanzon

VISITING Beijing and Shanghai at this time allows the traveler to see the old and new China—its ancient civilization and transition to the market economy. In a short period and even after reading some books, I tried to understand both, although in a limited way. China's ancient civilization, from its traditional Chinese medicine, its discovery of the lunar calendar, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall are spectacular. Its people had to go through several armed revolutions before the People's Republic of China finally came about from socialism to communism with Mao Zedong as Chairman and Soong Ching Ling, the widow of Sun Yat Sen, as one of his co-chairpersons. Now China is a huge country with an inexhaustible and cheap labor force and one with nuclear weapons. It is also getting on the fast lane of technological advancement.

It is not surprising then that in the China Daily, where leaders of the Apec posed with President Jiang Jemin, US President George W. Bush looked happy in his blue silk embroidered Chinese coat. After all, he has achieved two things: the commitment of China to fight international terrorism, and its entry into the World Trade Organization early next year. That will mean, according to Fortune Magazine, quoting a conservative estimate of the National Bureau of Asian Research, that China's purchase of US goods will increase from $19 billion in 1998 to $44 billion by 2009. If they just talk about trade and not about the massacre of students in Tiananmen Square

Jiang Jemin and George Bush will probably be friends for life. China's entry into the WTO will mean it is willing to play by global trade rules, but will continue to be a police state.

China will be entering into the global economy, which will mean low tariffs, and it will even adhere to strict rules against piracy. The more multinational companies come in with lower costs of production than China's mostly inefficient state–run companies, the more the consumers will benefit. But what of the hundreds of thousands or millions of their workers who will be laid off if their inefficient state-owned companies fold up?

After so many revolutions, the Chinese are skilled in the way of protests down to the village level, and expect these to-be-laid off workers and their families to protest. The government of the People's Republic of China knows that and the balancing of the interests of their people and their obligations to the WTO will be a major challenge for China's leaders.

So the foreign investors can look forward to the WTO and the 1.3 billion Chinese who will be their customers, but make no mistake about it, the leaders of China have as their first duty, to "serve the people." In case they have to make a choice between a multinational and a local company, their policies will probably have to be geared toward protecting their own.

A young man in Beijing told me that young people like the policy of the government to go into a market economy, even if conservatives are against it.

For the young Chinese, it is the only way to go. Many are learning English, not only for the Olympics in 2008 but also because of possibly more lucrative employment in foreign companies earlier than that. Filipino-Chinese who know Mandarin will find Beijing and Shanghai a good employment market because of their proficiency in English.

In Shanghai, China's Metropolis, the Chinese from Beijing and the provinces can have a picture of what that future will be like. Its TV tower is the third tallest building in the world. The "Bund" or the street on which the office buildings of foreign companies in the time when the British, Americans, French, and Italians were "concessionaires" in Shanghai, remain today, looking much like buildings in Boston and Europe.

Foreign companies however are realistic enough to know that even with China's entry in the WTO it will not be a walk in the park: There will be many rules, and that will increase their cost of doing business. At present, China is tightening its trade laws to protect local manufacturers and businesses. They will have a strict anti-dumping law, and knowing China, they will enforce it. "Dumping" is when another country sells its products at a lower price than its normal value at home. While Malaysia's officials once rhetorically asked why should they play football with 400 pound competitors, China will play by WTO rules, but will strictly guard against unfair trade practices.

China has learned from history and will not repeat it. Shanghai was, for many years, divided by Great Britain, US, France, Italy, and even later Japan, after being forced into what they called the "unequal treaty" virtually at the point of gunships. These "concessionaires" collected taxes in their claimed territories for trading. Hence, the term "dividing the Chinese melon." But later, when the workers organized, strikes were the common weapon, and the foreigners lost millions of dollars every day, and worse, loathed having had to do their own laundry and take out their garbage. At present of course that will probably be a hyperbole.

Instead, China's government now will use legal weapons against unfair trade practices. It also knows it has to have more skilled workers for the market, and allow migration from the poorer, mostly rural regions, to the urban areas to be able to absorb their surplus rural labor. And its government knows it has to provide a sufficient and effective safety net for all the potential workers who will be laid off when state-run companies might have to close in the face of stiff competition. Beijing will put 10 percent of the revenue raised in every new listing on China's stock exchanges into a social security fund.

Indeed, a far cry from the time of dividing the Chinese melon.

Bingawan: A lesson in tapping the heavens

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

IN THE TOWN of Bingawan, 69 kilometers west of Iloilo City, rice and bananas are the primary harvests. But there is another "harvest" equally important to residents of the town: rainwater.

Bingawan has probably the biggest number of small water impounding ponds, where rainwater is collected, in the whole country. The rainwater nourishes the rice paddies and hosts *tilapia*, catfish and other fresh water fish.

"The town has no rivers, only creeks and streams. We have been relying on the rain for our water needs," said Ted Peter Plagata, mayor of Bingawan that is considered one of the cleanest and greenest towns in Iloilo province.

Up north, in the coastal towns of Ivisan, Panit-an, Sapian, Cuartero, Sigma and Roxas City in Capiz province, communities that lack water rely on concrete containers that store rainwater abundant during monsoon months.

Since the late 1980s, many households have been relying on rainwater in stored concrete cisterns to supply their needs for drinking, washing clothes, bathing and watering their vegetable gardens. The cisterns are also found in schools, market places, day care centers and churches or where they are needed to catch heaven-sent rain.

Inferior?

Rainwater harvesting is an age-old practice that went into decline because rain is often regarded as inferior to piped water.

The government has given more importance to ground water, as shown by the amount of money politicians spend to distribute hand pumps and water pipes to win votes. Fat contracts and profits are earned in centralized water distribution projects.

"Rainwater is regarded as Level One, meaning (from) inferior... water sources. Water pumps are Level 2 while pipe water is Level 3. With such a classification, rainwater is not a priority for development, despite its abundance," said Jessica Salas, secretary general of the International Rainwater Catchment System Association, and advocate of rainwater harvesting since the 1980s.

Rainwater harvesting is capturing the rain from the roofs of houses, buildings, schools and churches, among others, and collecting them in containers. Aside from supplying water to households and buildings for drinking, washing, gardening and farming, collecting rainwater reduces soil erosion and eases flooding. It is also useful for fire fighting and can give underground water sources a rest.

By catching rainwater, the gutters and canals are not overloaded with water during the rainy season and this could prevent floods.

One of the reasons rainwater is not at par with piped water is people don't trust its quality especially in polluted urban areas. But rainwater advocates said that it is pure and there are ways to make the water safe.

MA. DIOSA LABISTE
A TYPICAL concrete cistern in Ivisan Capiz.

Writing in recent publications on rainwater harvesting, Willem Boelhouwer, a Dutch, said rain is a natural part of the hydrological cycle, the result of a process of condensation and, therefore, is a primary source of pure water. Rivers, lakes and groundwater sources are secondary sources. They are often polluted with pesticides, among others, and yet are the source of piped water for drinking.

In places where rainwater is abundantly used, residents take time to ensure that water is safe.

In Ivisan, a municipal sanitary inspector regularly tests the water in the containers. Owners of the water containers also install simple charcoal filters to remove impurities. Since the cisterns were installed 15 years ago, there was no outbreak of water-borne diseases.

Some households attach a spout to remove water-carried dust, leaves and rusts from galvanized roofing. After a few minutes of downpour, the spout, with cleaner water, is drained into the main storage tank.

Rainwater movement

Turning rainwater harvesting into a people's movement is one of the goals of a few advocates like Salas. However, they lamented the lack of enthusiasm for rainwater harvesting despite success stories in Bingawan and some towns in Capiz province.

The pilot project in some coastal communities of Capiz was made through a $22-million grant by the International Development Research Center of Canada. The expansion was funded by the Capiz Development Foundation Inc., United Nations Children's Fund, "Tulungan sa Tubigan," and the Local Resource Management project of the United States of Agency for International Development (USAID).

Loans with easy payment terms were given out to families who want to construct water tanks.

The pilot and expansion project financed the construction of 324 tanks of various capacities in the coastal and upland areas. Today, the provincial government stopped giving out loans.

A ferroconcrete tank, which can store up to 4,000 liters, can supply all the needs of one to three households all year round except during the summer months of February to April when water is limited to drinking.

Bingawan's water catchment project is funded by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the municipal government. It was started during the term of then mayor Zafiro Palabrica. Today, there are 150 rain catchment ponds in the town and twice as many requests for assistance to build the ponds, said Plagata, who himself owns a pond ringed by mahogany trees.

An 800 to 1,000 square meter pond costs P20,000 to P25,000 to build.

Secret to good health

Bingawan, Plagata said, benefited from rainwater harvesting practice. He said it is the townsfolk's secret to health and long life. It also prevents them from eating poisonous yam during lean months or drought.

Rainwater harvesting also celebrates the value of cooperation. Rain catchment ponds have lessons on sharing and being good neighbors, said Lorna Tipsay, a former town councilor-turned-farmer.

Tipsay grows flowers, 25 kinds of fruit trees and *tilapia* in her rainwater-impounding pond that also supplies water to a couple of farmers downstream.

Salas said there are many arguments to further push rainwater harvesting in Capiz and Iloilo.

Coastal communities in Capiz said their shallow wells are invaded by saltwater while Iloilo's watersheds are far from rehabilitated.

A 1999 study on groundwater made by the DENR noted that Panay Island has "no extensive and highly productive aquifers" and its mountain areas have a limited supply of groundwater.

The same study noted that water districts hardly reached the island's population. Of the 40 water districts organized in Panay, 17 are not in operation. The rest have limited service areas. The Metro Iloilo Water District, which supplies potable water to Iloilo City only served 35 percent of the city's population.

There are also plenty of raindrops to be collected. The average annual rainfall in Iloilo province is 1,707 millimeters, but in the past five years it reached 2,290 millimeters.

Suspected kidnap boss captured

(From page A1)

entered the conference room of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) because of his black eyes and blisters that covered his swollen left hand.

Authorities said Tan got the blisters when he underwent a paraffin test at the PNP crime laboratory.

As for the black eyes, Ebdane said: "It was a little dark there (laboratory). They bumped into the wall."

No explanation was given about the injuries sustained by the other suspects.

Swollen face

The right side of Figueroa's face was swollen. Cantere had bruises on the right cheek. Gajis wore bandages on his left ear and right cheek. He was also barefoot.

The news conference was temporarily halted when Go conferred with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Ebdane.

Perez later faced reporters and told them that while Go readily admitted to his involvement in currency counterfeiting, he denied participating in the abduction of Jao, son Aaron and driver Rolly Tugado on Monday night.

"Go denies the kidnapping charge. *Napasama lang daw siya*," Perez said. Go pointed to Ambrosio as the driver of the vehicle that bumped the vehicle of the Jaos before they were abducted.

Finger pointing

Go pointed to Tan as the group's mastermind. Tan, who was just standing beside Go, turned to him in surprise upon hearing this.

Go and Ambrosio allegedly managed to escape while their cohorts fought it out with members of various police units that swooped on their lair in San Francisco del Monte.

SPO4 Edmundo de Leon was fatally shot during the firefight.

Go shook his head when Ebdane announced that police seized from him a three-in-one HP Officejet printer he allegedly used in producing fake peso bills.

Responding to a question from a reporter, Go said he used another printing unit in making counterfeit money.

He said the batch of fake bills seized from him in Bulacan was bought from another source in the province.

"Mr. Go wants to confer with a lawyer before making any further statements. The Department of Justice will provide him with a lawyer through the (Public Attorney's Office)," Perez later said.

In a press statement, Naktaf said joint operatives chanced upon Go while he was riding a motorcycle in Samantha Village, Sapang Palay in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan at around 10:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Go is said to be a former US serviceman and proficient in motorcycling.

Seized from Go were 18 fake P1,000 bills, 21 fake P100 bills and P47,000 believed to be part of the ransom paid by Jao's family.

Naktaf records indicated that Go was also allegedly involved in the kidnapping of a certain Jake Ocampo in Bulacan in May 2000, a string of robberies and counterfeiting. Ocampo's family allegedly paid Go's group P150,000 for his release.

Incentives

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza to study the grant of special incentives for families with two or more members in the PNP.

The President issued the directive in the wake of the death of De Leon, 49, who was shot by the suspects. De Leon's son, rookie cop Ulysses, was also part of the team that raided Go's hideout.

According to reports, the older De Leon shielded his son from fire, saving the younger De Leon's life.

"The tradition of families to have two or more (of their members) in the police is indeed laudable," Ms Macapagal said at her regular press conference.

The President said the incentives could be offered to families with father-and-son or brother-and-brother tandems serving in the PNP.

In appreciation of De Leon's ultimate sacrifice, the President said she had instructed Interior Secretary Jose Lina to see to it that the government shoulder the educational expenses of the late policeman's children.

The President also ordered housing officials to determine whether De Leon's loan for a housing unit in Taguig could be condoned.

"Mrs. De Leon and her children will receive full support from the PNP and the Office of the President," Ms Macapagal said.

De Leon was promoted posthumously by Mendoza after the operation against Go's group.

Last night, Ms Macapagal attended the wake of De Leon at the PNP national headquarters in Camp Crame.

(See story on Page A2.)

Good morning, Afghanistan: Music's back on the air

(From page A1)

air by US bombs in the first week of the US air campaign.

Radio Shariat went back on the air this week—but only for an hour a day and only in the Kabul area.

The White House had signaled when it opened its military offensive Oct. 7 against terror suspect Osama bin Laden and his Taliban allies that it would be using all means possible to get the US side of the conflict to Afghan civilians.

So far, that has included leaflets and expanded-range Voice of America broadcasts.

Washington has had no official comment on the propaganda broadcasts, believed to come from EC-130s. Flying radio stations, the military planes circle and circle in the skies over countries targeted for the US message.

In Afghanistan, the message is simple, BBC Afghan monitors listening in say: Taped calls in local Pashto and Dari languages for Taliban soldiers to lay down arms and surrender, and assurances that the Americans aren't there to fight Islam, but to drive out foreign terrorists.

Military types call that kind of thing "psyops"—psychological operations, waging the battle of the airwaves as US jets fight the air war.

But for Afghans, there was something more than rote propaganda:

Wedding tunes, Afghan folk and pop music—music of romance, love, songs of the definitely outlawed *joie de vivre*.

The "pomegranate song," with its lazy invitation to a lover to come lie around, is among them, the radio monitors say.

The Taliban, with their rigorous view of Islam and of life, banned it and all other music when they took power, calling it un-Islamic.

The Taliban staged mock hangings of TVs, lit bonfires of audio and videotapes and confiscated cars if a rock music tape was found in the player.

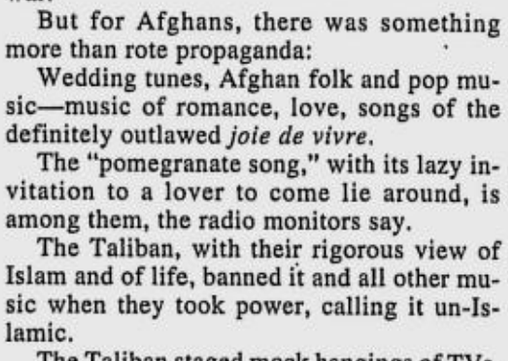
Taliban vice police hung plastic streamers of gutted cassettes from poles and trees, putting out the message that the party was over.

"In the Taliban, the music was gone, and it was really bad," the Afghan musician said. "People were missing it a lot."

Now, "people will be amazed, and never believe they can hear the music in Kabul again," he said.

It is not clear how many Afghan ears the music is reaching, however.

Asked about the broadcasts, Taliban Information Ministry official Abdul Hanan Himat insisted none of Kabul's people were tuning in. "Absolutely not," he said. *AP*



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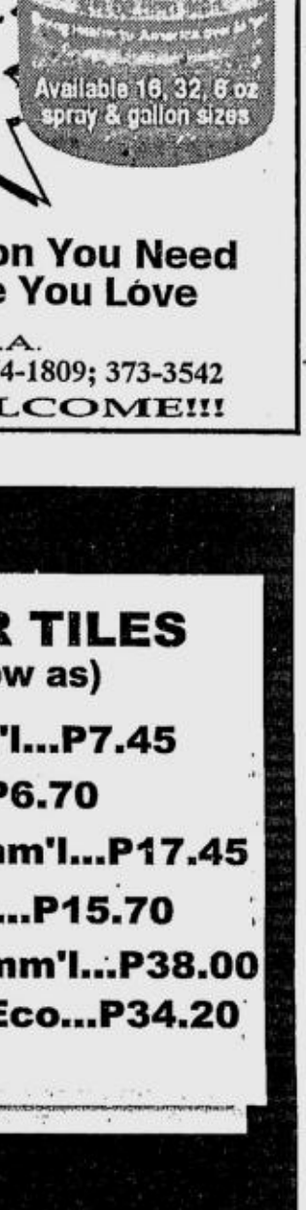

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Dead or alive, Bin Laden will be hard to get

(From page A1)

about any suggestion that he could develop such a capacity."

Both the BBC and the Times newspaper, quoting intelligence sources, reported Thursday that Bin Laden had illegally acquired nuclear materials from Pakistan, which has nuclear capability.

Unnamed intelligence sources in The Times asserted, however, that Bin Laden did not yet have the capability to mount a nuclear attack, but would if he could.

The sources expressed concern that Bin Laden could use the nuclear material as a "dirty bomb," exposing thousands to radioactive poisoning, rather than as an atomic weapon.

The daily reported that in 1993, a top-level Bin Laden agent, Jamal al-Fadi, met a Sudanese military commander in Khartoum to negotiate the sale of an enriched uranium cylinder for a black market price of $1.7 million.

Comparing the war on terrorism to the five-decade-long Cold War, Rumsfeld said that victory could only be measured in terms of removing a threat.

"We really won't know when it's over until it stops on a mass scale and people don't feel threatened."

Unshaken

But in Islamabad, rebel leaders said the bombing had failed to shake the Afghan regime.

On Thursday, US air strikes on Afghanistan came under attack on all fronts after controversial cluster bombs killed nine civilians.

The United Nations said cluster bombs had killed villagers and destroyed homes while aid agencies and rights groups warned of an imminent humanitarian disaster as hundreds of thousands of refugees fled the bombing.

On Friday, the Muslim day of prayer, US jets struck the Afghan capital of Kabul, rocking the city with huge explosions and blasting a Red Cross compound for a second time this month.

Three children were reported killed in overnight attacks on the city, according to Associated Press writer Kathy Gannon, one of the few Western journalists allowed to enter Taliban-held territory in Afghanistan.

Along the front line north of Kabul, Taliban forces held their ground despite days of US bombing aimed to open crucial supply lines.

One of the blasts struck a compound of the International Committee of the Red Cross, according to security guard Abdul Shakour. He said warehouses used to store humanitarian supplies were damaged and stocks of rice, beans, blankets and oil were on fire. The compound was hit during an attack on Oct. 16.

Young casualties

During late night bombing Thursday, three children were killed—two from a family living in the northwest area of the city and the third in the east, according to officials at the Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital.

Despite more strikes against frontline Taliban positions, opposition forces dismissed the US bombing as ineffective and Afghan leaders meeting to discuss replacing the hardline regime called for the air war to be abandoned.

UN spokesperson Stephanie Bunker said that US cluster bombs had killed eight people outright when they hit a village in the west of the country on Monday night, and that another had been killed later after picking up a bomb.

The controversial weapon scatters hundreds of fist-sized high-explosive bomblets over its target, some of which explode on impact and some of which lie on the ground like anti-personnel mines to explode if disturbed.

A Taliban spokesperson said the bombs had been used again on frontline militia positions overnight.

Bunker said staff from the UN Mine Action Program had been to the village—which she identified as Shakar Qala—after Monday's attack.

SUPPORTERS of Bin Laden publicly show their sentiments in Lahore, Pakistan, as they also call on their president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, to withdraw support for the US-led air strikes. GETTY IMAGES

Curiosity kills

"They reported that eight civilians were killed directly in the attack and that one civilian was killed—as happens in these cases—when he went to look at the object, touched it and it blew up," she said.

"They have determined there were 45 homes in that village, 20 of the homes were partially or completely destroyed in the attack." She said the population had since been evacuated.

A US defense official confirmed that American jets had used cluster bombs near the village, which is on the outskirts of the western city of Herat.

Some aid agencies and demining groups have called for the use of cluster bombs, which are designed for use against concentrations of troops and vehicles, to be banned because of the danger they pose to civilians.

US forces this week began using the weapon as they intensified their raids on Taliban positions in the hope of clearing the way for ground assaults by the opposition Northern Alliance.

Long war

President Bush has warned of a long war to force the Taliban to surrender Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network of Islamic radicals. Bin Laden and his agents are suspected of carrying out attacks on US targets—including the Sept. 11 kamikaze attacks in hijacked jets that killed more than 5,000 people and a spate of letters laced with anthrax which have killed three.

But after 18 days of air strikes—and at least one commando raid—the most visible result of the US-led campaign has been a flood of refugees bringing harrowing tales of civilian casualties to Afghanistan's borders.

The head of the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) Jakob Kellenberger warned Thursday that civilian deaths were mounting.

"There is an increase of civilian casualties in recent days," he told an OSCE conference in Vienna, "I can only express strong hope that the utmost will also in the future be done that there are no civilian casualties."

The Taliban claimed that bombing overnight killed at least 36 more civilians, including an entire busload of people, and maintain that more than 1,000 have so far died—a figure hotly disputed by Washington.

Doing all it can

The Pentagon accepts that some of its bombs have landed away from their targets, but insists it is doing all it can to minimize civilian casualties.

The Taliban said overnight attacks hit militia positions protecting the approach to the strategically important northern town of Mazar-e-Sharif and near the Bagram air base north of Kabul.

But the opposition commanders who have been asked by Washington to advance under cover of the bombing said on Thursday that it had been largely ineffective, despite a slight advance Wednesday toward Mazar-e-Sharif.

"So far the level of pressure on the Taliban is not such that they will be demoralized, lay down their weapons and run away," said Abdullah Abdullah, foreign minister of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance.

He said the low level of US jet attacks on militia frontlines north of Kabul, where the Taliban have an estimated 6,000 fighters, was provoking growing frustration in opposition ranks.

"I can understand this sense of frustration among local and senior commanders," Abdullah told reporters.

"They think it is too little and better results could be achieved. Since there is a massive concentration of Taliban at the frontlines, if there was intense bombing of the front there would be better results."

Afghan leaders

In the Pakistani city of Peshawar a major conference of exiled Afghan leaders planning an interim government to replace the Taliban called for the bombing to end and for a ceasefire in the civil war.

"We demand the warring parties of Afghanistan, the USA and its allies end their operations as early as possible," read one of eight resolutions adopted after a two-day conference by an estimated 1,000 community leaders here.

"They should rather pave ground for a political solution and understanding to ensure on one hand protection of life of innocent people and on the other hand prevention of further destruction of Afghanistan."

As the humanitarian crisis deepened, Uzbekistan reopened its border with Afghanistan, which has been shut since 1998, to UN aid agencies to allow them to ferry supplies across the Amudarya River.

More than 2,000 Afghan refugees, meanwhile, arrived Thursday at the border with Iran and moved into the Makaki refugee camp inside Afghan territory, a UNHCR spokesperson in Tehran said.

The spokesperson said that, in addition to needing food and medicine, the refugees feared being pressed into service by the Taliban and of running foul of drug traffickers operating in the area.

Nowhere to go

He urged Iran to open its borders to the refugees, but Tehran, along with Pakistan, has kept its borders closed since the start of the US raids.

More than 60,000 refugees have crossed into Pakistan since Sept. 11 and the number, according to UNHCR spokesperson Yusuf Hassan, is expected to rise to 300,000 within weeks and up to 1.5 million in the longer term.

"They are coming here," said refugee Abdul Hameel at the emergency camp of Killi Faizo near the Chaman border post in southwest Pakistan. "It will only take a few days, but they are coming."

Officials in western Pakistan reported that they were trying to stop thousands of armed tribesmen gathering on the border from crossing over into Afghanistan to join forces with the Taliban and fight the Americans.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, whose countries were once the Taliban's main sponsors, met in Islamabad to discuss the crisis.

France announced that its spy planes, like Britain's, had joined the US-led military operation.

Britain was expected to announce on Friday a deployment of troops earmarked for action in Afghanistan. Hundreds of crack Royal Marine Commandos were expected to form the nucleus of a British ground force.

A thousand troops including squadrons of the elite Special Air Service (SAS), are expected to be sent for raids inside Afghanistan, The Daily Telegraph reported.

Mountain and winter warfare troops of 3 Commando Brigade are expected to stay in the Gulf region after the end of a huge training exercise in Oman, according to other press reports.

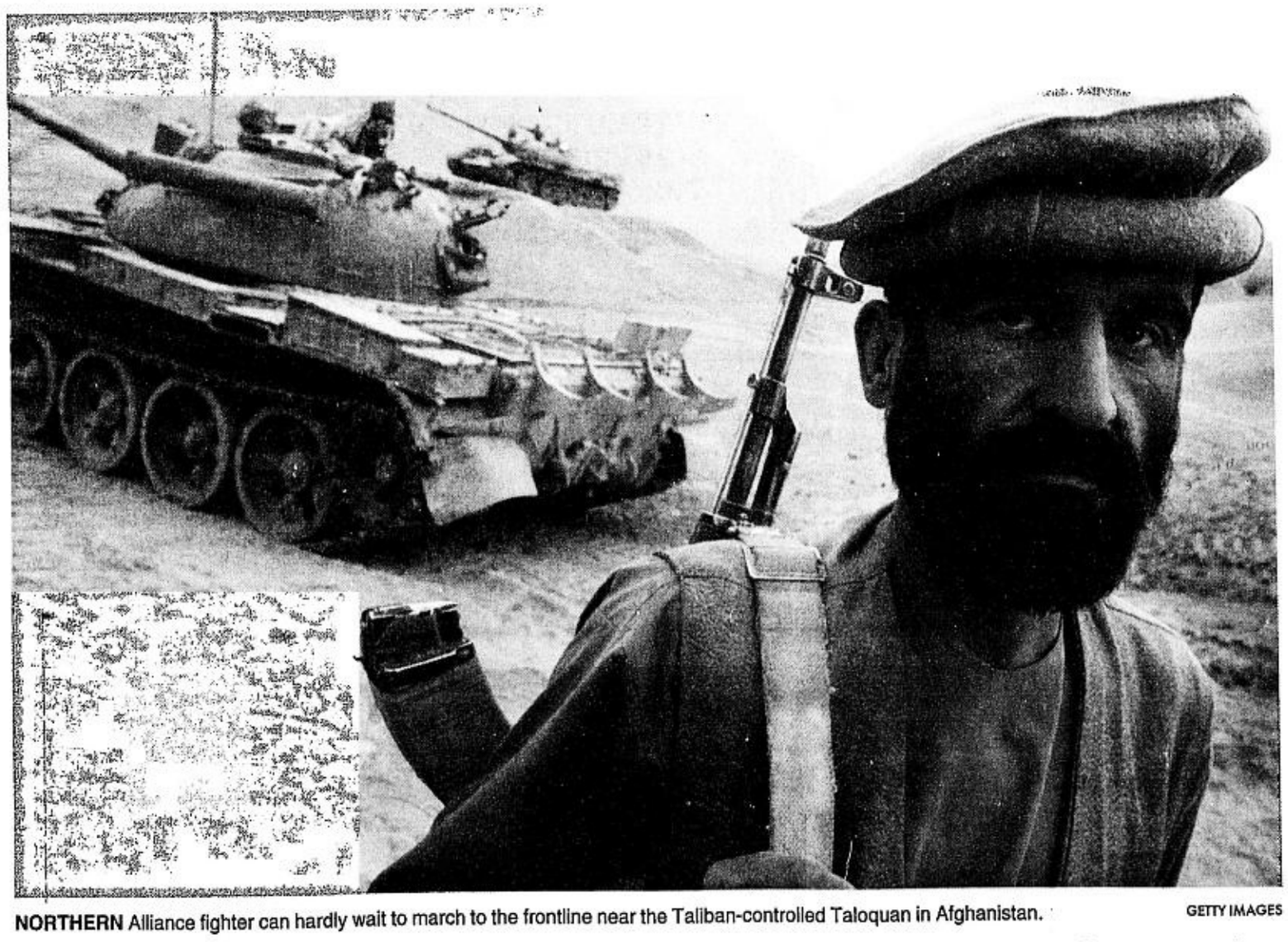
The British commandos could be used to provide "force protection" for small, highly mobile SAS units sent on search-and-destroy missions behind enemy lines.

Meanwhile, the BBC said the Royal Marine commandos could be involved in more sustained attacks than the lightning strikes so far mounted by US special forces.

Britain has played a mainly logistical role during the air strikes on Afghanistan, although British submarines have twice fired cruise missiles—so far the only direct European role in the attacks.

But Prime Minister Tony Blair gave his strongest indication yet of the imminent deployment of British troops when he briefed opposition Conservative Party leader Iain Duncan Smith on military plans late Thursday.

Duncan Smith said as he left Downing Street: "My best wishes go to our troops and their families." *Reports from AFP and AP*



NORTHERN Alliance fighter can hardly wait to march to the frontline near the Taliban-controlled Taloquan in Afghanistan. GETTY IMAGES

Anthrax scare hits RP consulate in LA

(From page A1)

name was lightly crossed out and replaced with a hand-written "Mahapagal" on top.

The English text was unintelligible although it seemed to explain something about Christianity and Islam. The Arabic text has yet to be translated.

The package contained a book titled "True America: A true story," which the letter sender claimed to have written.

The faces of former US President Abraham Lincoln and Black rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. were on the book's cover.

A quote from the book reads: "Sayeth the leaders in America, there's no slavery in America and in the world. But alas and alas, that their offspring modernized slavery in their land."

The sender's address was written as 509 Griswold (Apt) #6, Glendale, CA 91205.

Not wanting to take any chances, the Philippine consul general immediately phoned the LAPD. One of the responding police officers said the package "was a credible threat."

But Don Cox, an LAPD media affairs officer, refuted the police officer's claim. Cox said LAPD was receiving similar calls "about 40 a day and not one of them" turned out as what people had feared.

People excited

"People are just getting excited for no reason," he said. He added there was no cause for alarm. Nonetheless, bomb experts scrambled to the consulate and cordoned off the area and evacuated close to 30 personnel of the consulate and other tenants from the fourth, fifth and sixth floors of the building.

The tenants were brought to the building's parking lot at the back for close to two hours while bomb squads and bioterrorism experts placed the package under an X-ray machine. They also combed the area for other possible threats.

The Philippine consulate is in the middle of the Wilshire business district where several other corporate offices, including Philippine News, the largest and only US-wide circulated Filipino-American newspaper, are jam-packed just a stone's throw away from downtown Los Angeles.

Bael said that a staffer he sent out after the incident confirmed that the address of the letter sender was indeed existent but that the staff did not bother to determine whether Tehrani actually lived there.

Asked why terrorists would single out the Philippine consulate, Bael said the Philippines had so far been the strongest Asian ally of America in the global anti-terrorism war.

"The CNN map even shows the Philippines to be among the 'blue-colored' countries along with the likes of the UK, Australia and New Zealand, which means we are their strongest supporter in Asia," the consul general said.

"This (mail) could just be an innocent display of a guy who wants to (make his thoughts) known but it could be also a test of how we observe and react to a situation like this," Bael said.

Since the incident, mail handlers in the consulate has donned gloves for protection.

(Ramas is a former reporter of a Manila-based newspaper.)

Foie 'grass,' anyone?

(From page A1)

Tasmania said on Friday that he was feeding his fowl protein-rich cannabis seeds. Flinders Island farmer Ian Rochfort said the seeds gave young geese a much better start to life than commercial feed.

But he assures foie gras-loving diners that they will not be intoxicated by anything other than the taste of the geese.

"This cannabis is a different strain from the one people want to smoke," Rochfort said.

He added that a person would have to smoke kilograms of the cannabis "and end up with a very sore throat in the process before you got any hit."

Rochfort said the seeds have a much higher protein content than barley or wheat and are rich in amino acids, good fats and fibers.

"It would be good human food, but we're not allowed to use it for that," he said.

After growing a trial crop and testing the seeds, Rochfort plans to plant about 4 hectares for his young geese.

The project was tightly regulated, with police regularly checking his property and the location of the crop kept secret.

Even the geese's droppings are tested to check the cannabis content.

The geese stop chowing on cannabis at around six weeks, that is 10 weeks before they are slaughtered.

The geese weigh around 3 kilograms when slaughtered and cost up to 60 Australian dollars (US$30) each.

The geese are finding favor in swanky restaurants in Sydney and Melbourne, Rochfort said. *AP*

WBC strips pug's ranking

MEXICO CITY —The World Boxing Council has stripped the ranking of Australian middleweight Anthony Mundine for comments that the United States had brought the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks upon itself. The WBC, based in Mexico City, said it read Mundine's remarks "with stupefaction" and said it was dropping him indefinitely from the WBC ratings. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▩ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

PMA new training site for RP bets

THE PHILIPPINE Military Academy and the Philippine Sports Commission forged a landmark memorandum of agreement recently making the famous Fort del Pilar in Baguio City not just a home to the country's future generals but a training ground for track and field athletes as well.

TUASON

At the new venue, national athletes will be provided with high-altitude training as they prepare for various competitions abroad.

"This (MOA) is certainly a major boost to our training program and we salute the PMA leadership for opening doors to the national athletes," said PSC chair Butch Tuason after signing the agreement with PMA Supt. Maj. Gen. Rufo de Veyra.

The MOA allows the PSC to use the sports facilities at the PMA grounds for the training and development of national athletes as well as assign a venue for their billeting within a specified period.

The PSC can also use Fort del Pilar's sports facilities for national athletic meets and other sports activities under the agency's care.

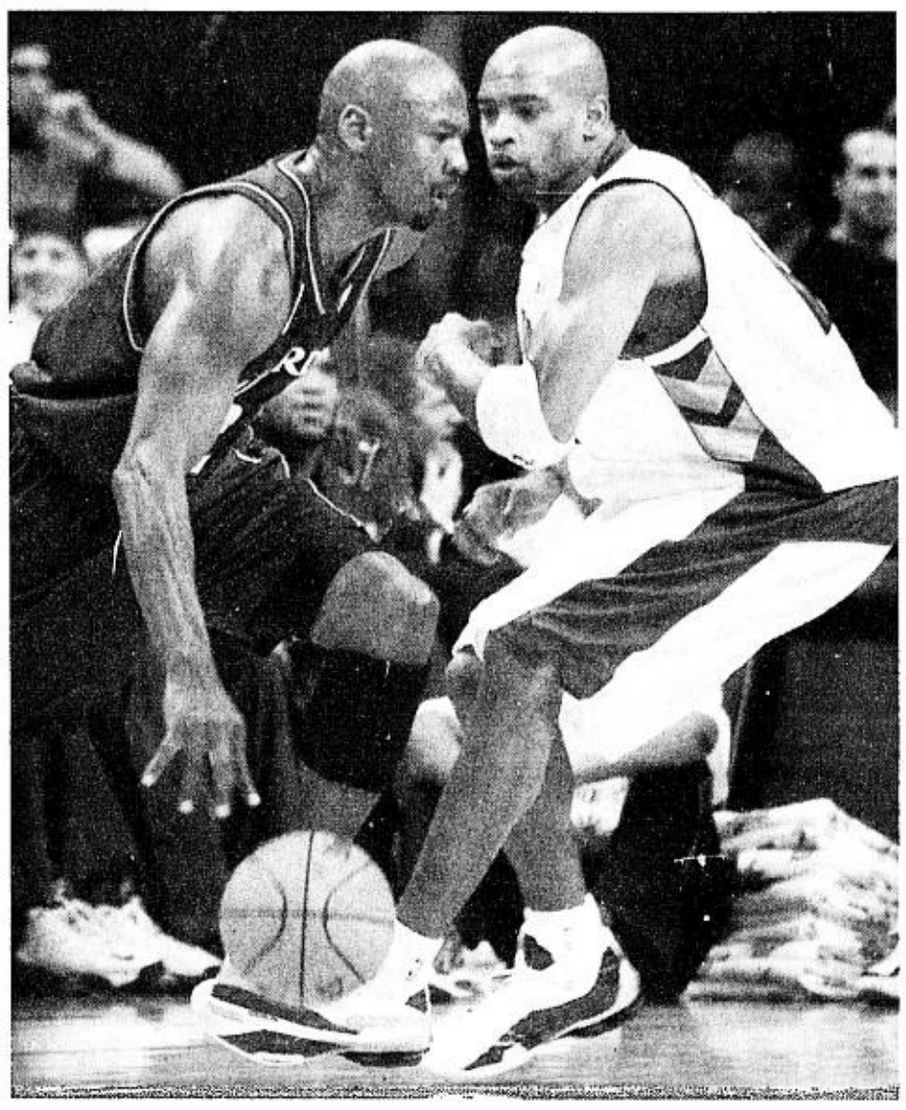
In return, the PMA will benefit from the PSC by way of technical assistance in running its athletic meets, physical education requirements and other logistics.

De Veyra also assigned a gymnasium inside the camp that will be for the exclusive use of the PSC-named athletes.

Tuason announced that there is already an existing facility at the PMA grounds for 50 athletes and coaches to use in their training.

In January 2002, the Indonesian PSC coach of pencak silat will go to Baguio to train the cadets because it will be included in the sports curriculum.

The MOA also boosted the chances of the physically fit upper and lower classmen of the PMA to be tapped for international meets.



JORDAN VS CARTER
Washington's Michael Jordan (left) drives as Toronto's Vince Carter defends during their NBA preseason game in Toronto on Thursday. Carter fired 31 points as the Raptors whipped the Wizards, 113-96. Jordan scored 22 points. AP

TPG Davao snaps MBA losing streak

Games Tomorrow
Araullo Gym, Cabanatuan
3 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs Nueva Ecija
RMC Gym, Davao
5:30 p.m.—Cebuana vs TPG Davao

LIPA CITY—The TPG Davao Eagles came close to victories in their last three games but ended up losers. Yesterday, they made sure there would be no more collapse.

Seeing their lead pared to just six points, the Eagles regrouped and dropped an 18-point bomb in a seven-minute span that propelled them to an 89-77 win over the Socsargen Tuna Marlins in the MBA Second Phase at the La Salle Sentrum here.

The Eagles thus broke into the win column in their ninth attempt, avenging their 112-106 defeat to the Marlins on Wednesday.

Burly Ryan Bernardo stood at the helm of TPG Davao's blitz attack late in the third and early in the fourth quarters, firing 12 points that handed the Eagles their biggest spread at 79-55.

Bernardo wound up with 17 points, 11 rebounds and 2 blocks as the Eagles posted a 51-38 edge off the boards apart from coming through with a balanced offensive.

"At last we won," said Noel. "After three close defeats I felt it coming."

Socsargen-Taguig suffered its 10th loss in 13 games, but stayed well entrenched at third place in the Southern Conference.

Alex Compton scored LBC Batangas' last six points to power the Blades past the Andok's San Juan Knights, 103-100, in the second game. The Blades improved to 9-1 while the Knights fell to 7-2. *Roy Luarca*

TPG DAVAO 89—Sasuman 21, Bernardo 17, Dela Rosa 17, Marata 16, Maloloy-on 7, Caliao 7, Simon 2, Concha 2.
SOCSARGEN-TAGUIG 77—Alvarez 16, Rodriguez 12, Santos 10, Flores 8, Echavez 8, Flores 8, Co 6, Reyes 5, Teng 4, Martin 4, Tizon 2, Almonte 0.
Quarters: 28-17, 51-37, 73-55, 89-77

Sta. Lucia nips Alaska

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Ginebra
6:10 p.m.—Shell vs Red Bull

BY DENNIS U. EROA

THE SMALL men reigned supreme as pacesetter Sta. Lucia Realty registered a stirring 100-99 overtime victory over skidding Alaska, assuring itself of the twice-to-beat privilege last night in the PBA Governors Cup eliminations at the Philsports Arena.

Steel-nerved Francis Adriano and Felix Belano conspired in the extra five minutes, while vastly improved Paolo Mendoza worked wonders in regulation as the Realtors upped their record to 8-2, while dropping the Aces to 3-7.

Shooting well from the perimeter, Alaska went ahead, 81-69, eight minutes remaining but the Aces simply collapsed like a deck of cards when the Realtors tightened their defense.

As the Aces fired blanks in a five-minute span, Damian Owens carried the fight for the Realtors, 83-83, but Alaska was far from finished. Rodney Santos gave Alaska an 87-84 advantage, 3.9 ticks left.

Plucked out from the bench, a double-teamed Mendoza, who already scored 11 points, made a perfect pass to the unguarded Dennis Espino, who beat the buzzer with a triple, forcing overtime.

"Dennis hits some big shots. It's nice to win a game like this especially on a night that we're struggling," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black. The Realtors committed 16 turnovers.

Alaska's fortunes tumbled when Ron Riley and Ali Peek fouled out in the extra time, leaving Owens and Espino enough room to operate. Don Allado gave Alaska an 89-85 lead, but Sta. Lucia wasn't in the mood to let victory escape.

Adriano capped a mighty surge with two free throws, 92-89, before the cat-quick Belano buried a crucial jumper which gave the Realtors a 98-95 lead, 21 seconds left.

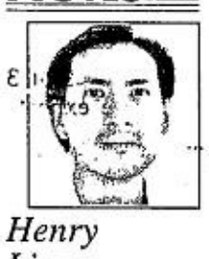
San Miguel Beer beat Talk N text, 79-75, in the second game to improve to 6-4. Talk N Text dropped to 7-3.

After Santos canned two free throws, Espino made it 100-97, 11 seconds left. The Aces' hopes crumbled when instead of taking a three-pointer, pegged the final score with a layup, 1.1 seconds left.

SCORES:
STA. LUCIA 100—Owens 33, Espino 20, Belano 13, Adriano 12, Mendoza 11, Aquino 6, Tan 3, Francisco 2, Del Rosario 0.
ALASKA 99—Riley 21, Peek 18, Duremdes 17, Allado 12, Santos 10, Arigo 8, Ordonio 5, Walkvist 4, Gahol 4.
Quarters: 25-23, 41-42, 57-70, 87-87 (reg), 100-99

Injuries

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

THE LIST of injured NBA players keeps growing.

The league's 56th season has yet to start—it gets underway on Oct. 30 (Oct. 31, Manila time)—but already injuries have wreaked havoc on a number of teams.

The reigning Eastern Conference titlist Philadelphia 76ers have been hit hardest with three key players possibly starting the season on the disabled list.

Quicksilver guard Allen Iverson, who captured NBA MVP honors last campaign and secured his second league scoring championship in three years, is questionable for the Sixers' season opener against the Timberwolves in Minnesota on Oct. 30 after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his right elbow on Sept. 25. The 6-foot Iverson sat out the entire training camp and has not suited up in the club's first six exhibition games (1-5, Philly dropped its first five before scoring a 91-87 decision over Michael Jordan and the Washington Wizards on Oct. 22).

The 76ers' backcourt is badly decimated. Iverson's starting partner Eric Snow is expected to miss up to three months after undergoing surgery on Oct. 23 to repair a broken left thumb. The 6-3 Snow sustained the injury during an Oct. 16 preseason contest against San Antonio in his first game back following offseason ankle surgery.

Two-way guard Aaron McKie, the NBA's 2001 Sixth Man awardee, could miss the first month (November) of the regular wars after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his right shoulder on Sept. 25.

Beach football in Subic Nov. 3

EVERYTHING is set for the Rexona National Beach Football championship set in Subic on Nov. 3.

Organized by the Beach Football Association of the Philippines (BFAP) under Unilever's Rexona Ultimate Challenge Series, the event features 4 Luzon-based teams and 2 from the Visayas-Mindanao which qualified to the finals after the elimination tournaments last summer.

Leading the cast are regional champions, Army for Luzon and Central Philippines University—Ilo-ilo for the Mindanao-Visayas, together with other qualifiers Sylvia Football Club, Mama Sita, and the University of the Philippines from Luzon, and Boom Boom Real Coffee based in Boracay.

"This is the first time that we will be staging a national championship in beach football with regional qualifiers and the Rexona national beach football series has certainly helped promote the sport and expanded the base of participants. Next year, we plan to include a women's division in the finals," said Mike Athab, chairman of BFAP, whose program is also supported by San Miguel Super Dry and Viva Mineral Water.

SPORTSWATCH

Bucks get Mason

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks signed All-Star forward Anthony Mason to a four-year, $ 21 million contract Thursday, hoping he'll catapult them to the top of the Eastern Conference. The sides had been working on a deal since the Bucks cleared cap room Monday by trading forward Scott Williams to Denver. The 34-year-old Mason gives the jump-shooting Bucks a much-needed inside presence they lacked when they were eliminated in the Eastern Conference final last season by the Philadelphia 76ers. *AP*

Annika advances

NARITA, Japan—Annika Sorenstam, seeking her seventh LPGA Tour victory of the year, beat Japan's Mineko Nasu 3 and 2 Thursday in the first round of the World Ladies Match Play Championship. South Korea's Se Ri Pak, seeded second behind Sorenstam among the 16 LPGA Tour players, also advanced, beating Japan's Michiko Hattori 2 and 1 on the Sosei Country Club course. The tournament is the tour's first match play event since 1992. It replaces the World Ladies Challenge, a team event between the LPGA Tour and Japan LPGA. *AP*

Ogilvy, Singh up

PINE MOUNTAIN, Georgia —Australian Geoff Ogilvy opened with a career-best 64 Thursday at the Buick Challenge, tying Vijay Singh for the lead at Callaway Gardens. "I just wanted to put in four rounds and go home with some spending money for Christmas," Ogilvy said. *AP*

US netters quit

LONDON —Citing risks to the "safety and lives" of its players, the defending champion United States pulled out Thursday of next month's Fed Cup finals in Madrid. The Fed Cup is the highest-profile international sports event from which an American team has withdrawn since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Robles top climber

ANDREW Robles emerged men's division champion in the Lipton Ice Tea Boulder Bolder Climbing competition held Oct. 20 at the Outdoor Sport Show at the SM Mega Trade Hall Center.

Robles outclassed Mell Pahati and Anthony Prieto in the fund-raiser organized by the Power Up Center for Climbing and Fitness and the Sports Climbing Association of the Philippines for the benefit of the national sports climbing team.

In the women's division, Jen Rosete took the title, beating top contender Coy Bautista, who settled for second and Dalla Guerero, who placed third. A special prize went to Val Guerero for the highest registration fee.

Prizes converted to gift certificates came from Power Up, First Ascent Safety Equipment, Habagat Outdoor Equipment, Sandugo, Montanara, Bagtas Outdoor, Lagalag outdoor clothing, Fluid Industries, Pitman, Cousin Ropes, Chocolate Kiss, Nature's Camp and Cafe and Expedition plus.

The tournament was held in the hardest section of the standard 50-foot climb, a small wall barely 15 feet high.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Wishing Well 2. Strong Alphonse 3. Triggerman 4. Will of Steel
Race 2—1. Kayang Kaya 2. Fountain of Gold 3. Firenze Rose 4. Divine Diva
Race 3—1. Fair Ringer 2. What You Say 3. Don't Worry 4. Sunflower
Race 4—1. Ninistar 2. Dennis the Menace 3. Do It David
Race 5—1. Ohayo Gozaimas 2. Live Show 3. Prime Minister 4. Ginger Baker 5. Beautiful Task 6. Dr. Jones
Race 6—1. Windlass 2. Play By Ear
Race 7—1. Shower of Stars 2. Big Kahuna 3. Another Sam 4. All Grace 5. Royal Diamond
Race 8—1. Chief Navigator 2. Our Hope 3. Diamond's Dollar
Race 9—1. Dancing Klara 2. Rio Rossa 3. Time Specialist 4. Portal Dancer
Race 10—1. Miss Sleween 2. Bold Freddy 3. Let Me Pass 4. D Greatest 5. Pep Talk
Race 11—1. Ringer Kid 2. Power Corrupts 3. Party Princess
Race 12—1. Art of Rose 2. Secret Quest 3. First of All 4. Red Thunder 5. Duces Tecum
Race 13—1. Vice on Ice 2. Imus Emperor 3. Witch Craft 4. Storm Princess
Race 14—1. Alexander 2. Gemstone 3. Mrs. Big 4. Khan Caloo 5. My Indy 6. Kay Rufina

Nat'l Sieger tourney on tomorrow

AGILITY, endurance, power and anatomy will be at stake tomorrow (Oct. 28) when the Philippine National Sieger Show reels off at the Quezon City Hall Arena at exactly 8 a.m.

With SV judge from Germany Herr Heinz Henrici scrutinizing those super dogs, the 2001 Sieger and Siegerin title will be up for grabs anew.

Entries to watch are Seiger Oscar Von Arminius and Siegerin Kessa, Von Der Piste Trouphe.

A point system cumulative of the last three Landesgruppen Shows plus the results of the Sieger will determine who will be the top winners.

"It is conditioning and superb training that will spell the big difference," said GSDF chair lawyer Jose Sibal.

"It will be the toughest field ever assembled so far in the history of our Sieger Show," added its president Jewel Castellar.

It's anybody's game in the Open female class. Leading the points system are Gina Von Bann and Xolly Fichtenschlag followed by Baffy Von Gloria Dei, Eicka Huhnegerab and Biggi Vom Dosenberg. Notwithstanding the entry of V-23 Jassy Oxalis, SG-21 Bagheera Schloss Ramsberg,Baguio Siegeran Alyssa Stefanopeler Tal plus 2000 Seigerin Kessa Von Der Piste Trophe.

The male Open class will shift to high gear with 2000 Sieger Oscar Arminius finding himself in a very tough field. Leading the male class are Calypso Schloss Ramsbergs, Fero Von Bann, Jasko Danischenhof, Pilar Urbecke, Tresko Christinen Brunnen, Elk Fiemereck.

More than 300 entries have so far registered as of presstime. Registration and briefing for owners and handlers will be held at 4 p.m. today. Singer-actress Victoria London will grace the awarding ceremony.

Sponsors are Wave 89.1, Bukanuba, Pedigree, Science Diet, Woof Chunk, Mera, Purina, Frontline, Happy Dog and Diamond Dog food.

Registration is still going on at PCCI (412-4105) and GSDF secretariat (8317371.)

Standard bets dominate race

STANDARD Insurance president Judes Echauz cited teammates JP Tuason and Roland Hermoso for placing 1-2 in the Standard Insurance-KACE Electronics-Toyota Alabang-Petron racing team in the final race of the Formula Toyota Cup (FTC) of the Casino Filipino Grand Prix. They won the team championship at the BRC Formula Speedway last Sunday.

Hermoso, 1999 and 2000 Toyota Corolla Cup champion, clinched the 2001 FTC Driver of the Year crown with 184 points overall. Tuason (racing only 10 of 12 rounds) won third overall at 120 points against second placer Enzo Pastor's 151.

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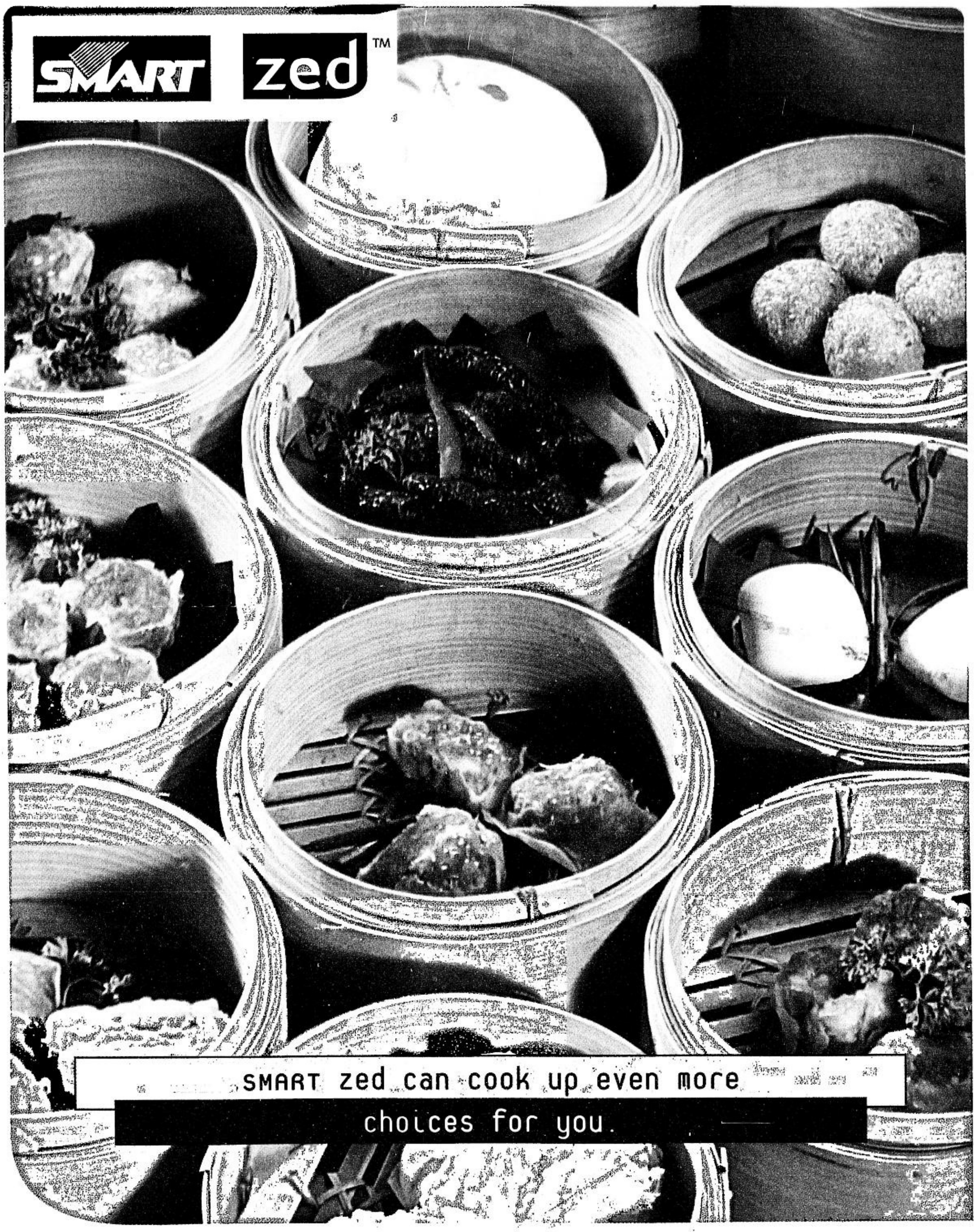

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Suspected drug dealer freed despite evidence A23 ■ Homicide raps vs 7 Antipolo cops A27

'Hypocrites'

BY TJ BURGONIO AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

HOW can the mayors solve the garbage problem in Metro Manila when they can't even segregate trash in their own backyards?

The conservation group Greenpeace yesterday raised this point and described Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Mayors Lito Atienza of Manila and Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad of Pasay as "hypocrites" for failing to practice what they preach on waste management.

In a news conference in Quezon City yesterday, Greenpeace proved its point when it showed reporters videos of unsegregated, unrecycled trash that were allegedly collected from Abalos' own neighborhood in Mandaluyong, inside Manila City Hall and Trinidad's own residence in Pasay.

Greenpeace representatives, clad in white suits, later unloaded the local executives' trash from six tightly sealed garbage bins. Inside was

HYPOCRITES/ A23

DE LEON

MANZANO

'Pan de sal syndrome' hits game shows

BY BIBETH ORTEZA

AS A people, we don't just go whole hog, we get a piggery. We go into fads, and we shame the rest of the world. Hot *pan de sal. Litsong manok.* Shawarma. Pearl shakes. Starbucks.

Thalia hit it big in "Marimar" and we bought the whole lachrymose slew of telenovelas. We don't stop at patronizing the originals, we try to

PAN DE SAL/ A24

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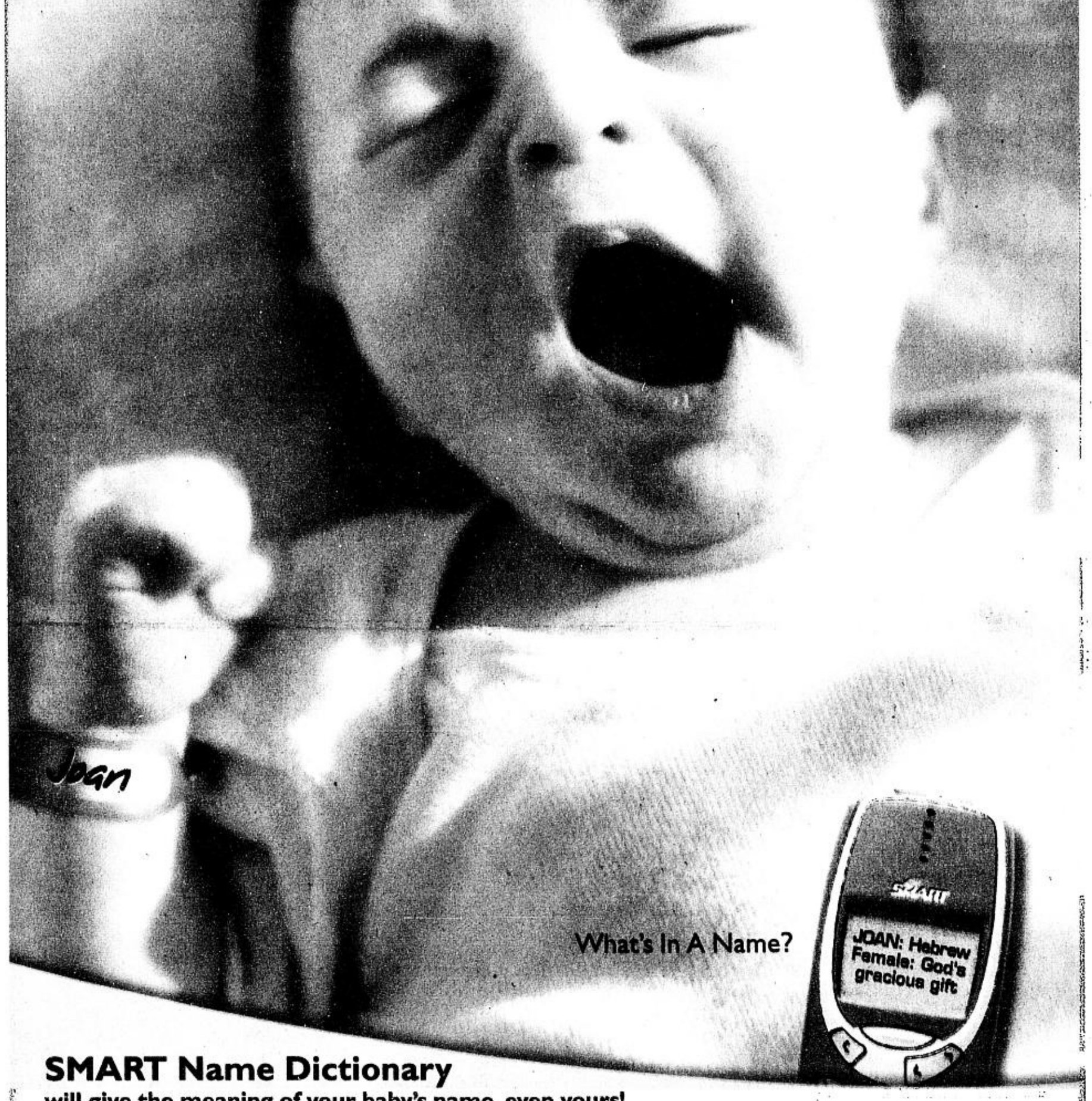

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GMA dignifies YOU

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Why did President Macapagal-Arroyo talk to Superintendents Rafael Cardeno and Diosdado Valeroso, chair and founding chair of the shadowy Young Officers Union (YOU)?

In giving them an audience the President has dignified them and the rumors of an impending coup.

Those guys from now on will become swell-headed.

***

YOU, as an organization, has earned the reputation of being a force to reckon with. But that was then, when it was run by Col. Danilo Lim of the Philippine Army Rangers.

Under Lim, YOU was known to have voiced out legitimate grievances which were subsequently addressed by the past and present administrations.

Nobody seems to know the source of the rumors of an impending coup d'etat. People in this small town give every rumor some degree of importance by spreading it around.

***

Only one person has stood to benefit from the rumor—Superintendent Cardeno, special assistant to retired Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, chief of the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

I watched Cardeno being interviewed by Ces Drilon over the ABS-CBN News Channel Thursday night.

He said that the aim of YOU was to clean up the government of corruption.

Baloney! How come some officials and employees at the LTO say that Cardeno is Abenina's "bagman" or "hatchet man?"

***

A Chinese crony of former President Erap gave P200 million to a high official in the Macapagal-Arroyo administration for the government to lay off his smuggling cases during Erap's time.

That's what this Chinoy has been complaining to close friends, according to my source in the Chinese community.

"*Nagdadaing siya*, Mon, *dahil napakalaki daw ng nakuha sa kanya ni* (name of the high government official)," my source said.

***

The Erap crony, according to my source, is now meeting with officials of the Bureau of Customs for him to be given the same privilege he enjoyed when his friend was still in power.

In short, the Erap crony wants to engage in smuggling again.

Apparently, he wants to earn back the money he gave to the high government official.

***

Since the present director of the Bureau of Corrections, Ricardo B. Macala, took over, a lot of irregularities have taken place in that bureau under the Department of Justice which used to be called the Bureau of Prisons.

Bureau insiders told me that the old practice of giving temporary liberty to inmates at the National Penitentiary is back. These inmates, who get back in like homing pigeons, commit crimes outside.

P*^%$# @ ! This irregularity must be stopped immediately! Prison officials and employees who have resurrected the practice must be dismissed from the service.

***

As far as I know, the practice was stopped during the watch of Vicente Vinarao and Pedro Sistoza, both retired two-star police generals.

I wonder why the irregularity has come back during the time of Macala, whose only qualification is being president of a small-time security agency and having been chief of police of Batangas City. The rank reached by Macala in the police force is lieutenant colonel.

It seems Macala doesn't have the leadership to run a very sensitive bureau because his subordinates running circles around him.

***

I learned about the return of the practice of giving temporary liberty to some inmates when an insider informed me that Jose Obosa, who's serving a life sentence, has been given the privilege.

Obosa, convicted for the murder of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jaime Ferrer, has been in and out of the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa since Macala took over.

During the time of Prisons Director Meliton Goyena, Obosa was allowed to get in and out of prison. Obosa reportedly robbed and murdered people outside and then got back to prison; he then shared his loot with prison officials.

***

In 1988, this writer exposed Obosa's trysts with crime outside the prison walls. I got the information from some prison employees.

There was a big investigation at the time which resulted in the relief of the superintendent of the New Bilibid Prisons. Obosa's escapades outside prisons stopped because he was no longer allowed to go out.

And now, Obosa is again allowed his temporary liberty.

***

Just recently, there were reports that some inmates from the National Penitentiary were allegedly given temporary liberty to assassinate Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos.

Could Obosa be one of those inmates?

Death for 2

BY ALCUIN PAPA

TWO men were sentenced to death after a Makati City Regional Trial Court judge found them guilty of raping two teenagers and turning them into their sex slaves.

In an 11-page decision, Judge Roberto Diokno of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 62 handed down the death sentence to Oliver Arevalo and Hermiginildo Organista, both of Cembo, Makati, for the rape of two 19-year-old girls from Jan. 23 to Feb. 14 this year in Makati.

The two were also ordered to pay their victims more than P700,000 in damages.

Court records showed that the accused had lured the girls into Arevalo's home by promising to help them look for jobs.

One of the girls met the accused in Fairview, Quezon City.

The other girl met them while she was walking aimlessly at Rizal Park.

In their testimony, the girls said the accused raped them repeatedly while they were in Arevalo's house in Barangay Cembo, Makati.

The said the accused had also sold them to other men for sex for P100.

They said they suffered sexual abuse and torture and were also made to take shabu.

Medical examinations conducted on the girls showed that they were raped and that they had contracted venereal disease.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 27, 2001
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Rom 8:1-11*
Gospel: *Lk 13:1-9*

One day some persons told Jesus what had occurred in the Temple: Pilate had Galileans killed and their blood mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus replied, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did.

And those eighteen persons in Siloah who were crushed when the tower fell, do you think they were more guilty than all the others in Jerusalem? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did."

And Jesus continued with this story, "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it, but found none. Then he said to the gardener: 'Look here, for three years now I have been looking for figs on this tree and I have found none. Cut it down, why should it use up the ground?' The gardener replied: 'Leave it one more year, so that I may dig around it and add some fertilizer; and perhaps it will bear fruit from now on. But if it doesn't, you can cut it down."

Commentary

"In every death, the funeral bells toll for thee: I am what you will be," says a poet. Hear its warning. The fig tree was a symbol for Israel. The lesson of its parable refers to the Jewish nation, but it could as well apply to us as community or individuals. What is the owner looking for in the fig tree? Its fruits—but he finds none. He wants to cut it down. The gardener intercedes and asks him to suspend judgment after a year. Applying fertilizers was extraordinary in those days. This is the way with the mercy of God. He gives a time of grace—a very special grace in Jesus. Begin bearing fruit already. Fruitlessness leads to death.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS)—*Habeas corpus*—The writ of *habeas corpus* extends to all cases of illegal confinement or detention by which any person is deprived of his liberty, or by which the rightful custody of any person is withheld from the person entitled thereto. Thus, it is the proper legal remedy to enable parents to regain the custody of a minor child even if the latter be in the custody of a third person of his own free will. It may even be said that in custody cases involving minors, the question of illegal and involuntary restraint of liberty is not the underlying rationale for the availability of the writ as a remedy. Rather, it is prosecuted for the purpose of determining the right of custody over a child. It must be stressed too that in *habeas corpus* proceedings, the question of identity is relevant and material, subject to the usual presumptions including those as to identity of the person. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Tijing v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 125901, March 8, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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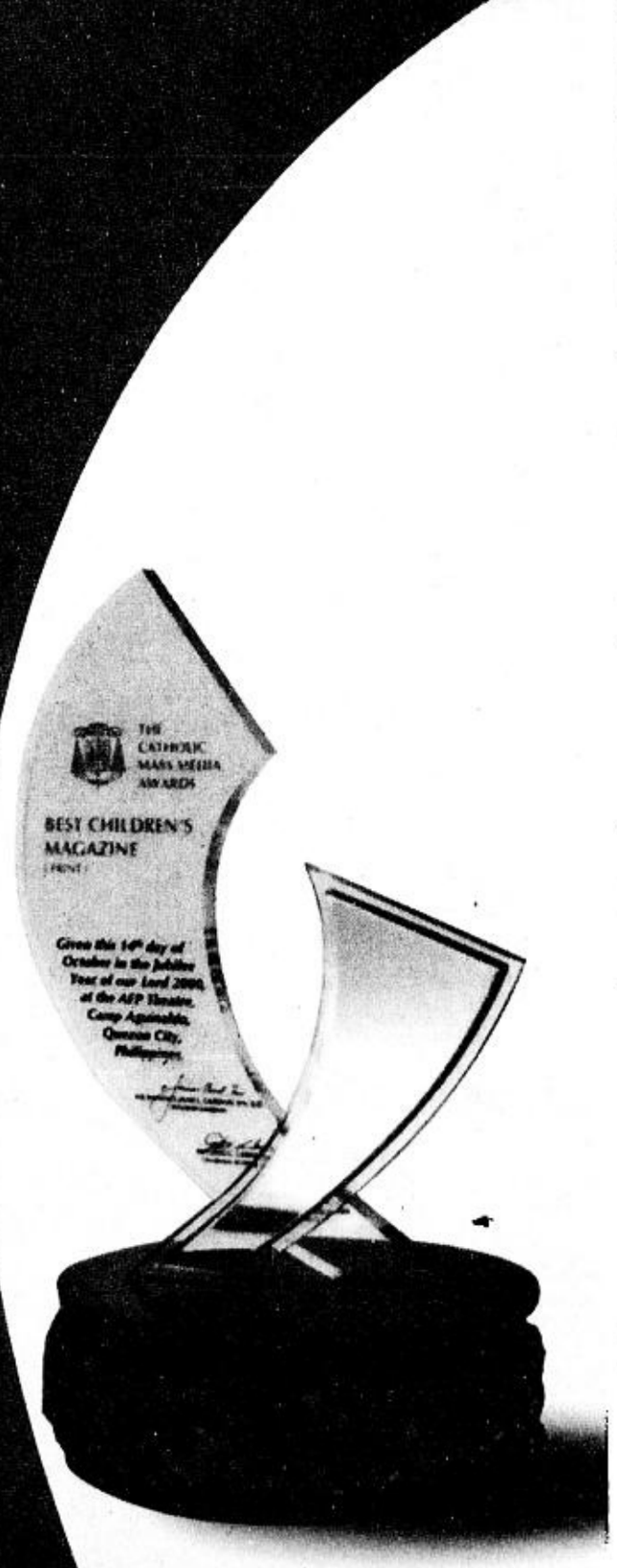

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TWO WOMEN GET LIFE

Suspected drug dealer freed despite evidence

BY ALCUIN PAPA AND ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

THE MAKATI City government has asked the Department of Justice to investigate a city prosecutor for allegedly releasing a suspected big-time drug dealer despite the evidence against the suspect.

In a letter to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Makati City legal department head Rogelio Marasigan said he wanted to "register our feeling of disgust and serious concern" over the dismissal by assistant city prosecutor Henry Salazar of criminal charges against Charles Benson Co.

Co was arrested during a raid conducted by Makati City police on a unit at the Cityland Condominium on Buendia Avenue in Makati in August.

Co was found in possession of about two kilos of shabu during the raid led by Makati City police chief Supt. Jovito Gutierrez.

But Co was released sometime last week on a technicality.

Salazar had said Co's arrest was illegal.

Marasigan said in his letter: "With due respect, we find that there is sufficient evidence on record that would support a successful prosecution in court."

Co's release "would send the wrong message" in the government's war on drugs, the letter said.

It would also demoralize law enforcement agencies and local officials in the fight against drugs, it added.

Marasigan asked Perez to review Co's case.

"We are confident that after a closer and careful assessment of the evidence, you will find that there is sufficient basis for filing the case in court," the letter said.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay also expressed "sadness" over the release of Co.

He told reporters that "the matter should be investigated."

But in Caloocan City, a regional trial court judge sentenced to life imprisonment two women found guilty of selling illegal drugs.

Judge Myrna Dimaranan-Vidal of the Caloocan RTC Branch 127 sentenced Myka Maguindra, 27, and Myrna Falit, 49, to life imprisonment.

A third accused, Harrision Maguindra, husband of Myka, was acquitted after the court found no sufficient evidence against him.

Mrs. Maguindra and Falit were found with 1.038 kilos of the methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu during a buy-bust operation on 6th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan on Nov. 28 last year.

Judge Dimaranan-Vidal also ordered the convicted drug pushers to pay a fine of P1 million each.

Under the law, the maximum penalty for drug peddling is death if the amount of illegal drugs found on the suspects exceeded a kilo.

But Dimaranan-Vidal ruled that there were no mitigating or aggravating circumstances to give the maximum penalty to Maguindra and Falit.

In Parañaque, police arrested a suspected drug dealer while he was allegedly delivering a kilo of shabu to an unknown buyer.

Parañaque City police chief Supt. Ruben Catabono said the suspect, Enrico Javier, alias Rico, 27, of BF Homes Executive Village in Barangay BF Homes, Parañaque City, was arrested about 9 p.m. Thursday in the parking lot of a McDonald's branch at the corner of Dr. A. Santos Avenue and President Avenue in BF Homes.

He was also found with a white utility plastic bag containing shabu.

Members of the Parañaque Police Intelligence and Investigation Division received a tip that Javier would leave the drugs in the parking lot for the buyer to pickup.

Police conducted surveillance on Javier, which led to his arrest.

Javier is now detained at the Parañaque City jail facing drug charges.

METROBRIEFS

Suicide

DESPONDENT over his failed investments in the Philippines, Japanese businessman Hiroshi Akonamo, 53, committed suicide inside his room at Lourdes Mansion in Ermita, Manila, police said on Thursday. Akonamo, a native of Toko, owned Basfilm, a Makati-based film distribution company specializing in dubbing English-language films in Japanese. The company, police said, is almost bankrupt. Lena Hadeja, 23, Akonamo's live-in lover told police she found Akonamo's body about 12:45 a.m. on Wednesday, about two hours after she last saw him alive and downing glasses of liquor. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Sexual humiliation

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl had to endure sexual humiliation in the hands of at least seven men in Parañaque City when she tried to retrieve from them P2 worth of coins for her 2-year-old brother. She told police she and her brother were walking near their house in Barangay Homes about 8 p.m. on Wednesday when her brother dropped the coins. She said the men, one of whom was identified as Boboy Talific, took the coins. When she asked them to return the money to her, the men passed her around and touched her private parts. She said they dropped the coins and walked away. Police said they were still looking for the men. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Raid

THIRTEEN guest relations officers found working without permits were arrested during a raid by Mandaluyong police on the Panda Garden Club on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong. Club owner and opposition Councilor Avelino Beado accused police of harassment and denied that his employees had no work permits. Mandaluyong City police chief Supt. Sukarno Ikbala said the raid was part of the city government's ongoing campaign against lewd shows. *Nelson F. Flores*

Worker killed

CONSTRUCTION worker Rico Espidilion, 37, was killed, while Sonny Tambuco, 39, was seriously injured after they were allegedly attacked while they were sleeping by Bobby Haranilla, 30, another construction worker. Police said Haranilla overheard the two men talking about him on Thursday night while they were drinking liquor at the construction site. Haranilla allegedly bashed their heads with a sledgehammer. He escaped after the attack, police said. *Nelson F. Flores*

Japanese sues Japanese

JAPANESE tourist Hunatsu Yuichiro, 60, of Osaka, accused Endo Takenori, 55, of Makati, of duping him of one million yen in exchange for nonexistent treasury bills. Yuichuro filed a complaint with police on Tuesday against Takenori, whom he said convinced him in August to buy one million yen worth of treasury bills, which he failed to deliver. Takenori admitted to police that there were no treasury bills and promised to return to Yuichiro his one million yen. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Acquitted

A MAN accused of raping his deaf-mute foster cousin two years ago was acquitted from the charges after the prosecution failed to prove his guilt beyond reasonable doubt. Judge Rodolfo Ponferra of the Manila RTC Branch 41 ruled that Richard Staple, who was accused of raping the girl on Jan. 6, 1999, could have been merely a victim of intrigues sown by his relatives. Judge Ponferrada also found results of the medical examination on the alleged victim ambiguous. It said that there were "recent genital injuries" on the girl but "no evident sign of extra-genital physical injuries." *Jerome Aning*

Death in the park

TUP engineering student Allan P. Videna, 22, died in the arms of his girlfriend Ma. Lourdes Macarenas in Rizal Park. Police said the couple was walking at the Chinese Garden in the park about 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday when Videna fell unconscious. Macarenas said she thought at first that Videna was only joking. She rushed him to the Philippine General Hospital when he did not respond to her after she tried to rouse him. Doctors declared Videna dead on arrival. Police said there no signs of external injuries on Videna's body, but they are still waiting for autopsy results. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Up Against Toxics!

BY JOEY C. PAPA

DESPITE the advocacy for ecological waste management through segregation, composting and recycling in line with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, several interest groups continue to push for incinerators, offshore landfills and dumpsites, unmindful of the dangers these technologies pose to the health and lives of the people.

For one, incinerators involve burning or combustion and will definitely fill the air with emissions of toxic chemical substances. On the other hand, segregation, composting and recycling can be done at minimal cost compared to the millions of dollars required by the foreign technologies, and are also pro-Filipino, pro-poor, and definitely pro-environment.

As the merchants of incinerators and landfills use their powers and influence to circumvent pro-environment laws, the toxic wastes left on Philippine territory — such as the Clark Air Base area, a former US military installation — have caused the death and illness of hundreds of Filipinos.

Last Tuesday, at Café Mundial on Tomas Morato in Quezon City, a broad alliance of environmental groups, youth, scientists, health workers, artists, religious groups, doctors, and those from academe and the media launched the People's Unity Against US Military Toxics and Hazardous Wastes — or Up Against Toxics! — to heighten the demand for the US government to clean up the toxic wastes.

The alliance considers it timely to again raise the issue because of the reactivation of the former base as a refueling station for US planes being used in the current war against Afghanistan.

Biochemical weapons

The alliance convenors stated that the US "should keep away from the Philippines and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should be forthright in demanding the US to provide compensation for and rehabilitation and cleanup of the damages wrought by the poisonous substances its forces left on Philippine territory."

The alliance is also reminding Filipinos that the US has the capability to deploy biological, chemical, and nuclear arms against its perceived enemies such as Afghanistan.

"It should be recalled that the US is the only country which has willfully dropped biochemical and nuclear weapons on heavily populated areas, as in Iraq during the Gulf War and in Japan during World War II," alliance organizers said.

Professor Giovanni Tapang, spokesperson for Up Against Toxics!, said that "given the continuing horror wrought by the US government's stubborn refusal to even acknowledge legal responsibility for cleaning its leftover mess in Clark, the President should have thought several times before offering to open the country to the reentry of those unwanted visitors with dangerous cargo."

Worse than known

The alliance explained that toxic contamination in the Clark area might be worse than previously known, as it cites studies identifying 14 contaminated sites there. The villagers have noted that the US forces conducting military exercises use only bottled water not only for drinking but for bathing as well.

The alliance warned that the toxic wastes might have spread outside Clark. Dr. Romy Quijano said "US military planes, ships and armaments are known to be equipped with or contain biochemical or nuclear arms (and these) may accidentally leak and damage not only the environment but also people's lives."

The alliance noted that while the RP and US governments continue to ignore the issue, 12-year-old Fe del Mundo, a pale, thin girl with a bloated stomach, is suffering from liver cancer. Her mother is begging people to help her raise P15,000 for the girl's chemotherapy.

Ian de Castro, a 2-year-old boy, suffers from neuro-development delay. He cannot sit, speak, or stand.

Pregnant women are experiencing forced abortions, while those who are able to deliver face the possibility that their babies might also suffer abnormalities.

The alliance claimed that the poisons that caused their conditions come from such substances as polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs and lead in the water that the people drink or in the air that they breathe, causing leukemia and mental retardation.

The numbers of victims continues to increase, according to Up Against Toxics!

MEMBERS of Up Against Toxics! include Sis. Rosalie Enriquez, Prof. Giovanni Tapang, and actors Suzette Ranillo and Roy Alvarez.

Hypocrites . . .

(From page A21)

an unsegregated mix of soda cans, plastic cups, bottles, utensils and banana peelings.

"If this is not plain lying, this is hypocrisy" on the part of the mayors for failing to implement the waste management scheme, said Francis de la Cruz, Greenpeace toxics campaigner. "This only goes to show that the garbage problem has been made worse by people who are supposed to (be doing) their jobs."

"If only waste segregation is done from the start, we won't be looking for dumpsites and landfills," said Von Hernandez, Greenpeace campaign director. "What we should be looking for are recycling facilities and composting plants."

Volunteers from Greenpeace and Eco-Waste Coalition took the video footages on Oct. 24 and Oct. 25 to find out if the local chief executives were complying with RA No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

In the face of the worsening garbage problem, Abalos and the rest of the mayors, including his son Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, have come out with a TV commercial to drum up support for waste segregation.

"If they fail to implement the provisions of RA 9003, the mayors and governors can be charged criminally and administratively," said Hernandez.

Greenpeace advocates waste segregation, recycling and composting as long-term solutions to the garbage woes in the metropolis.

Odette Alcantara of Mother Earth also castigated the mayors for over-reliance on high-priced disposal schemes like landfills and incineration plants.

"These are business deals masquerading as solutions," Alcantara said. "The government is really made to guarantee supply on garbage. How can they solve the garbage problem when they want to perpetuate supply."

Echoing Alcantara, De la Cruz said the mayors' reliance on such money-making schemes has only aggravated the garbage problem.

"How come we can't solve the garbage problem?" De la Cruz asked. That's because of 'garbo-politics.' Our politicians are allowing themselves to be influenced by garbage solutions that are short-sighted."

On Thursday, a coalition of urban poor and environmental groups filed a motion with the Supreme Court seeking to intervene in the ongoing legal dispute over a US$350-million incineration project awarded to a private firm during the Ramos administration.

In a 30-page motion for leave to intervene filed late Thursday afternoon, the Koalisyon Kontra Basura also wants the high tribunal to resolve en banc (full court session) all the legal questions surrounding the contract.

The high court's continued failure to act on the case is preventing the MMDA from implementing alternative solutions to the garbage crisis now affecting the metropolis, according to Liwayway Vinzons-Chato of the Citizens National Network Against Poverty and Corruption.

Chato's group is a member of the coalition and she is one of the movant-as-intervenors who are backing the MMDA's motion for reconsideration (MR) seeking to reverse the rulings of a lower court and Court of Appeals awarding the incineration project to Jancom Environmental Corp. (JEC) on a build-operate-transfer basis.

Chato and the other movants said they should be allowed to intervene in the case since they are taxpayers and are thus affected by any ruling on the matter.

The movants urged the high court to resolve the case in MMDA's favor, saying the contract was not valid since it was not signed by former President Ramos.

Chato said a reversal of the earlier decisions would allow the MMDA to proceed with the bidding process to award the new contract for a sanitary landfill to other waste management firms.

The case stemmed from a US$350-million contract awarded to Jancom by the Presidential Task Force on Waste Management to build an incinerator at the former San Mateo Sanitary Landfill in Rizal.

However, former President Ramos did not sign the contract because of objections from the Investment Coordinating Committee.

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OPENS OCT.31

'Pan de sal syndrome' hits game shows

(From page A21)

cut our soap operas out of the same cloth.

Comes now the latest manifestation of the hot pan de sal syndrome: The Game Show.

"Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" and "The Weakest Link" are on IBC-13, and "Game Ka Na Ba?" is on ABS-CBN 2. "Korek na Korek Ka Diyan" is set to launch on

GMA-7. Tail-ender ABC-5 is joining the fray with recently acquired oldies "Wheel of Fortune," "Family Feud," and "The Price is Right."

All will run straight from Mondays to Fridays around the same time cluster, except WWTBM which is currently on a broken week schedule of Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, as its franchise-holders air PBA games on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Of the three currently broadcast, WWTBM is the highest-rater but the TWL premiere episode's 24 percent rating is not to be sneezed at. Sources over at ABS-CBN insist GKNB is doing just as well, but kibitzers say the program's low commercial load indicates otherwise.

Formidable

Of the wannabes, "Korek Ka Diyan," the forerunner of "Korek na Korek Ka Diyan," is doing extremely well as a segment hosted by Vic Sotto in "Eat Bulaga." KKKD's hosting chores will fall on Sotto and Joey de Leon, easily the most formidable among Rustom Padilla ("Wheel Of Fortune"), Ogie Alcasid ("Family Feud"), and Dawn Zulueta ("The Price is Right"). The duo could give even the forerunners a run for their money, an opinion likely to be rebutted by the many impressed by Edu Manzano's so-far topnotch hosting on TWL.

This early, observers feel it will be an uphill battle for WOF, FF, and TPIR to stay at least on even keel with the rest.

"Si Marcos pa'ng presidente no'ng unang 'pinalabas ang mga 'yon dito," seems to be a common reaction. "Buhay pa si Ninoy, ngayon host na'ng bunso niya do'n sa kabila." By the time WOF, FF, and TPIR go on air, WWTBM's Christopher de Leon, TWL's Manzano, GKNB's Kris Aquino, and KKKD's Sotto-de Leon combination will have cornered the market foursquare.

Contrary to popular notion, these are not the first game shows on local primetime free TV. "Spin-A-Win" was on primetime in the mid-'70s on RPN-9, TV director Bert de Leon's combination of "Hollywood Squares" (Agree or

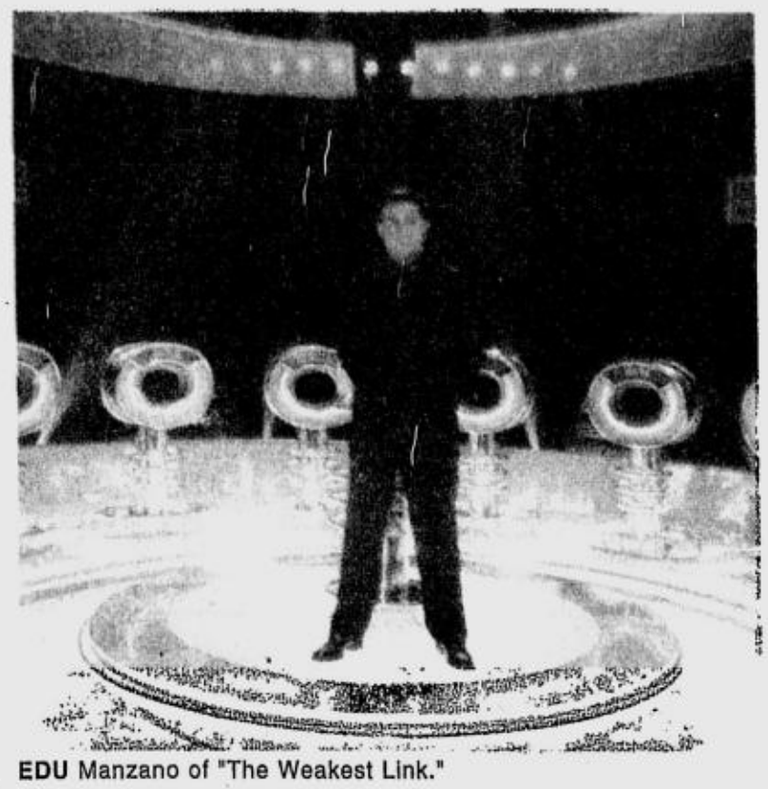
disagree?), and WOF (Spin the wheel!). Hosted by Jeanne Young and directed by the late Mitos Villarreal, SAW later became a Sunday noontime show when Villarreal opted to produce it herself as a blocktimer.

Rumors

In the late '90s, GMA-7 had "Go-Bingo", hosted by Arnell Ignacio. The show was good enough to merit competition from ABC-5, but it folded up just the same. The country was yet to be consumed by game show fever.

The first season of WWTBM was nothing much to crow about. First shown on Nov. 13, 2000, rumors were abuzz about the then triweekly's impending cancellation until its recent ratings-busting explosion of just two months ago, surprising its own franchise-holder, film/TV/record producer Vic del Rosario, and pushing competitors to run similar shows.

Del Rosario acquired both WWTBM and TWL through ECM-Asia's Ken Fortun. He is coy about actual franchise costs, admits only to having retrieved his investment, and that he earns from commercials and shares part of the income generated by telephone applications to join WWTBM.



EDU Manzano of "The Weakest Link."

"An applicant auditions through PLDT 1-908-1-000-000, and is charged for the duration of the call, at 10 centavos per minute," Del Rosario explains. "Those who make the auditions are put together into a batch from which final

studio contestants are chosen at random by a computer process."

"It's not like I've hit the jackpot myself," he says. "What I make on 'Millonaire' and hopefully 'Weakest Link' will simply bankroll future projects of Viva Films.

"The movie industry's at an all time-low," rues Del Rosario. "Film and music pirates are earning the difference between profit and loss. They don't pay

taxes, we do. Wala, talagang sinuwerte lang kami rito."

Suwerte is the key word here.

Ridiculous

There is unconfirmed talk WWTBM was first offered to ABS-CBN, but studio executives allegedly found the franchise cost ridiculously high. At that time leading the rest of the pack in overall ratings, the country's largest network is said to have confidently turned the offer down, only to create its own game show barely a year later.

"Game Ka Na Ba?" boasts of originality, of being the only one made by Pinoys, for Pinoys. Aside from complaints the show's rules are hard to understand even on its third week, game show watchers say the GKNB set is a clone of the original WWTBM set in London and the US, and the contest proper a hodge-podge of other game shows put together.

Maintaining impartiality, these enthusiasts likewise hit the forthcoming "Korek na Korek Ka Diyan" as another WWTBM rip-off, a charge people behind KKKD shrug off. "'Korek Ka Diyan' was already on 'Eat Bulaga' before the

local WWTBM went on air," the KKKD spokesman says. "We're not claiming to be original, ours is a mix-match of various foreign game shows.

"But our primetime version will have 10 contestants, chosen through PLDT line 1-908-1234567 to compete with the winner in 'Eat Bulaga.' A home partner is eligible to win the same P1,000,000 jackpot available to studio contestants."

'PAN DE/ A25

'Paref-Northfield school is for the common good'

PAREF-NORTHFIELD officials yesterday emphasized that their proposal to build a school in Greenmeadows III is "for the common good of all residents of Quezon City because enrolment to the school will be open to the public and scholarships will be provided to poor but deserving youth."

Paref-Northfield is a non-stock, non-profit entity currently operating a school in the Tomas Morato area. Early this year, it signed a memorandum of agreement with the Quezon City government to build a school on a public lot in Greenmeadows III.

But a group of residents opposed the plan. The residents questioned the use of the property and claimed that Greenmeadows III also needs the approval of the other subdivision phases.

The Quezon City council held two hearings to hear out arguments for and against the contract, and to act on a resolution filed against it.

But Paref-Northfield executive director Pierangelo Alejo said that they had already obtained the consent of Greenmeadows III. In addition, he said the use of the open space as a school was among those allowed by Presidential Decree 1216.

"We believe this project will benefit the families of Quezon City who wish to have affordable and accessible education for their children," Alejo said. "We believe it will immensely benefit the poor who will now have a chance at the scholarships that Paref-Northfield will provide."

He emphasized that one-half of the school's high school population will be composed of scholars from Quezon City's poor families, and that they would be receiving not only full tuition benefits but also provisions for uniforms and supplies.

Ortigas and Company donated the 3.1-hectare parcel of land to the Quezon City government 20 years ago for the benefit of the public.

Paref-Northfield also belied claims there is a need to rezone the property because zoning applies only to commercial or residential lots, as indicated by the Housing and Land Use regulatory board. Furthermore, PD 1216, which governs open spaces, allows the construction of schools on the properties.

CHRISTOPHER De Leon of " Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

'Pan de sal syndrome' hits game shows

Interactive

Film and television director Manny Castaeda, like this reporter a contestant on the first episode of TWL, is astonished by the phenomenal reaction to the primetime game shows. "It can't even be due to the million-peso prizes at stake," he exclaims. "Noontime game shows, independent segments on the two lunch shows, give out as much."

There are more viewers per household on primetime viewing. TV critics argue these viewers shifted to game shows because there's nothing good on local TV.

"What do you have?" asks an instructor at the UP Institute of Mass Communications. "Weepy soaps patterned after telenovelas? Execrable sitcoms where comedy has been redefined to a bunch of characters shouting inanities at each other with little thought to plot or narrative?"

Del Rosario feels this is all simply in keeping with technology. "Interactive is what people like now. They no longer just want to watch, they want to participate.

"'Millionaire' and 'Weakest Link' are big hits in London, and exported to the US, besting shows like 'Friends' and 'Sex in the City' from time to time in the ratings, watched during parties where guests try to do better than the contestants. The Internet also makes it possible for people to log in during the game, so you have the whole world playing, too."

Make-believe

Del Rosario could be correct. Downloadable, non-cash awarding, virtual reality versions of both WWTBM and TWL are available on the Web. These are played on a make-believe basis, testing the ability of contestant wannabes and making for great family fun.

There is little, if any, negative reaction to the proliferation of game shows. In a country where the quality of education is acknowledged to have deteriorated through the years, it is disturbing to hear parents proudly maintain their children learn more from game shows these days.

"Para kang tumataya sa lotto, pero natututo ka pa."

The reference to lotto somehow confirms what others see as an offshoot of the present economic situation. "The game show is a 'get-rich-quick' scheme," huffs Eli, a law student. "You study for years before you get a job and earn. In a game show you stumble into something you know by rote, it's money for the picking. With multiple choices on hand, it's sa pula or sa puti."

Whether fad or here to stay, the entertainment values inherent in game shows may be conceded. It is real-life drama when WWTBM ends an episode on a contestant agonizing over the set of multiple choices there before him, a cliff-hanger worthy of the highest rating soap, not merely Jericho Rosales's dilemma, or Piolo Pascual's, but Juan de la Cruz's.

Amid reports, however, of teachers using the shows as reason to push their students into memorizing names, dates, and places, we are confronted by the looming further retrogression of the development of analytical thinking in our schools.

Our students may be able to uniformly beat the buzzer and answer "Rizal!" if on a game show asked who wrote "Mi Ultimo Adios," but will they know why it was written in the first place?

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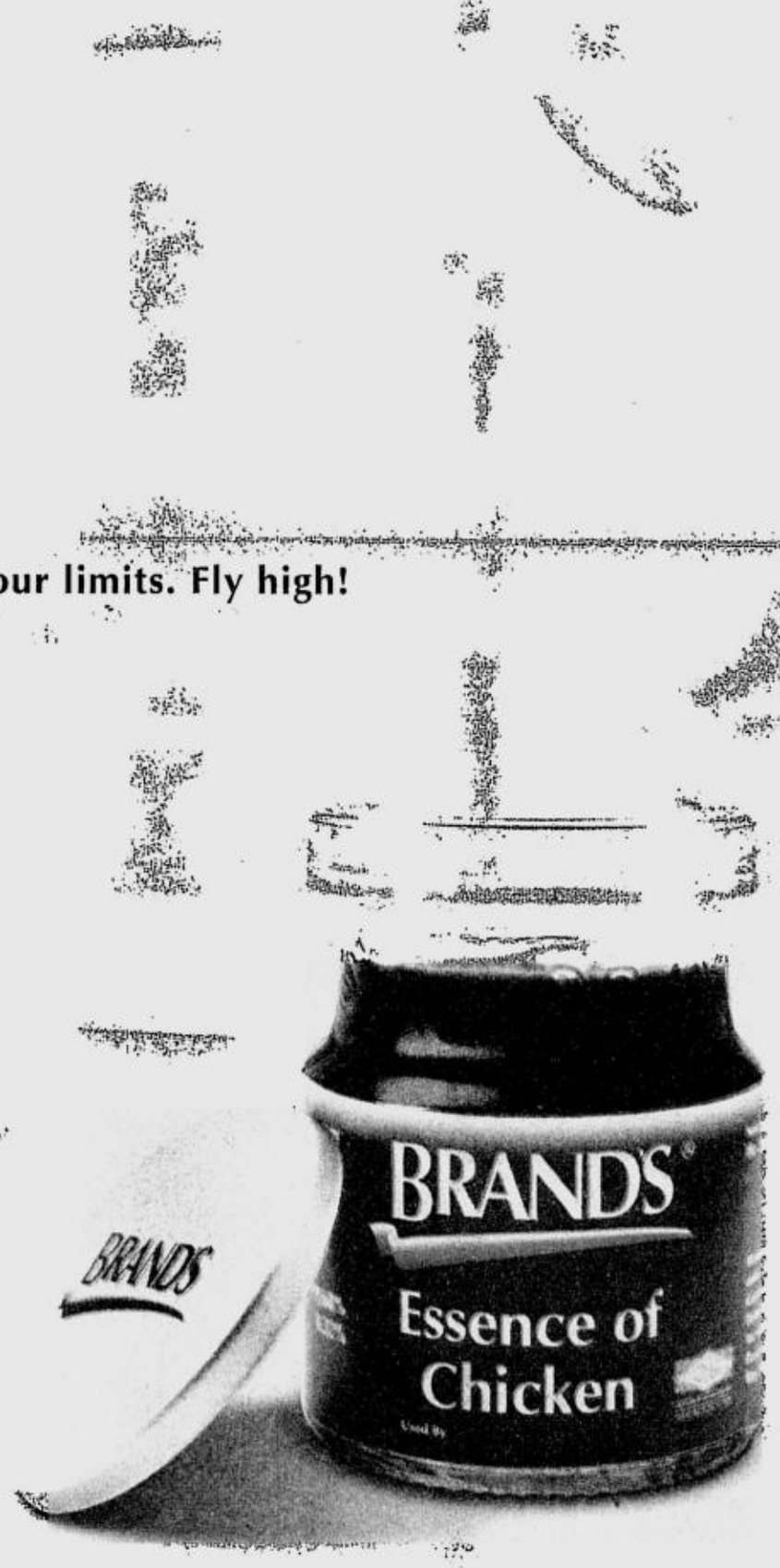

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2 TRAINING DAY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1
2 MANANABAS
3 EXTREME FORCE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 TEENAGE SEDUCTION
A MARITAL RAPE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 TRAINING DAY
2 DOS EKIS
3 HIYAS
4 MARITAL RAPE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) DOS EKIS
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 HIYAS
6 RESERVE
7 (DTS) LEGALLY BLONDE
8 (SDDS) AMERICAN PIE 2
9 (DOLBY) TRAINING DAY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 DOS EKIS

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 DOS EKIS
2 DOS EKIS
3 MANANABAS
4 (SDDS) SANGGANOT SANGGAGO
5 HIYAS
6 (DOLBY) LEGALLY BLONDE
7 (DTS) TRAINING DAY
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) TRAINING DAY
2 DOS EKIS
3 MANANABAS
4 HIYAS
5 (SDDS) LEGALLY BLONDE
6 SANGGANOT SANGGAGO
7 (DOLBY) RESERVE
8 RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 HIYAS
2 DOS EKIS
3 (DTS) TRAINING DAY
4 RESERVE
5 (SDDS) LEGALLY BLONDE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 DOS EKIS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 DOS EKIS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet
SIN OF THE NIGHT
NAKED NIGHT

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 TRAINING DAY
2 DOS EKIS
3 HIYAS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 DOS EKIS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) DOS EKIS
2 TRAINING DAY
3 HIYAS
4 MANANABAS
5 LEGALLY BLONDE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 DOS EKIS
2 MANANABAS
3 TRAINING DAY
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 HIYAS

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY) RESERVE
2 HIYAS
3 DOS EKIS

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 MANANABAS
2 DOS EKIS

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 MANANABAS
2 DOS EKIS
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 MANANABAS
2 DOS EKIS
3 (DTS) LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 THE HOLE
2 (DTS) DOS EKIS
3 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE 2
4 LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 DOS EKIS
2 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE 2
3 (DTS) LEGALLY BLONDE
4 13 DAYS

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1 SCARY MOVIE
2 MANANABAS
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) MANANABAS
2 HIYAS
3 DOS EKIS
4 (DTS) TRAINING DAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) THE HOLE
2 DOS EKIS
3 (DTS) LEGALLY BLONDE
4 MANANABAS
5 HULI SA AKTO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 DOS EKIS
2 LEGALLY BLONDE
3 MANANABAS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1 DOS EKIS
2 LEGALLY BLONDE
3 13 DAYS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 MARITAL RAPE
2 SANGGANOT SANGGAGO
3 MANO MANO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 EXTREME FORCE
2 THE HOLE
3 13 DAYS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) HULI SA AKTO
2 (DTS)

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 HULI SA AKTO
2 MANANABAS
3 DOS EKIS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

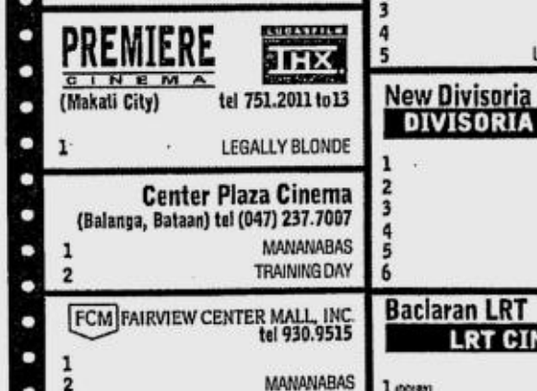
1 NAKED NIGHT
2 OSMOSIS JONES
3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 HULI SA AKTO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) AMERICAN PIE 2
2 DOS EKIS
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS EX) MANANABAS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING — THX — DOLBY DIGITAL — dts — SDDS



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1 (THX) LEGALLY BLONDE
2 LEGALLY BLONDE
3 THE BODY
4 13 DAYS
5 DOS EKIS
6 TRAINING DAY
7 TOWN & COUNTRY
8 AMERICAN PIE 2
9 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
10 TRAINING DAY

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1 LEGALLY BLONDE
2 DOS EKIS
3 TRAINING DAY
4 AMERICAN PIE 2
5 DOS EKIS
6 INVISIBLE CIRCUS
7 THE BODY

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1 TRAINING DAY
2 LEGALLY BLONDE
3 LEGALLY BLONDE
4 TRAINING DAY
5 AMERICAN PIE 2
6 AMERICAN PIE 2
7 DOS EKIS
8 DOS EKIS

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1 TRAINING DAY
2 DOS EKIS
3 LEGALLY BLONDE
4 THE BODY
5 MANANABAS
6 AMERICAN PIE 2

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1 13 DAYS
2 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 HEARTBREAKER
5 SISID
6 PRINCESS DIARIES

SOON TO OPEN
METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE
ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	IRA / CLIMAX
ODEON	DOS EKIS
ODEON-2	TRAINING DAY
ROBEN	HIYAS SA PARAISO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HIYAS SA PARAISO
REMAR	DOS EKIS
REMAR-2	MANANABAS

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-2	TRAINING DAY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	SISID
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-2	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-3	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-4	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-5	THE BODY
CINEMA-6	LEGALLY BLONDE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ISANG LAHI ISANG DUGO
CINEMA-2	LARUANG BUHAY
CINEMA-4	AKO ANG LALAGOT

Breast cancer support group fundraiser

BOSOM Buddies, a breast cancer support group, will have a fundraising auction of personal celebrity items from celebrities like Richard Torres, Gretchen Barreto, Bong Hawkins, Onemig Bondoc, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Jose Mari Chan, Mai Mai Cojuangco, Cardinal Sin, Tin Tin Bersola and Julius Babao, among others.

The public is invited to the fundraising auction this Sunday, Oct. 28, at 2 a.m. at the Manila Yacht Club.

Bosom Buddies is a support group of breast cancer survivors dedicated to increasing breast cancer awareness by reducing risks through early detection and treatment.

For inquiries, please call 810-0330 or 810-0810.

Catering seminar

CATERERS, restaurateurs and others planning to start or manage a catering business are invited by ProActive Center for Training (PACT) to its Managing a Catering Business seminar-workshop on Nov. 5-14, 2001 at Cafe Astoria at the lobby of Astoria Piazza on J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Avenue) in Ortigas Center, Pasig City from 1-5 p.m.

Reservations are being accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at 878-5231; 823-4947; 0919-5500601 or e-mail at *pactserv@info.com.ph.* Only 20 participants will be accepted. Seminar fee is P4,500 per participant, inclusive of field trip to food and equipment suppliers and a restaurant visit, manual and handouts, snacks, certificate of completion, and workshop materials and equipment.

The seven-day training will feature lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements; planning the menu, equipment and staffing; cost control; room arrangements; napkin folding and table skirting, among others. Trainers are foodservice consultants and professors of hotel and restaurant management who are award-winning coaches of the student division of Chefs on Parade.

Munti is tops

THE Muntinlupa Police Drug Enforcement Unit was adjudged No. 1 again in operations against illegal drugs in the National Capital Region for September.

According to a memorandum issued by Police Senior Supt. Nicasio Javier Radovan Jr. of the PNP National Capital Region Police Office, Muntinlupa topped the ranking with 49.27 points.

This is the third time that Muntinlupa topped the ranking this year.

The performance evaluation rating was based on points awarded to the DEU's administrative, intelligence, operations and police-community relations divisions of all police stations in Metro Manila.

The Southern Police District, to which Muntinlupa belongs, was followed by the Western, Northern, Eastern and Central Police Districts.

Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi lauded Muntinlupa police chief Col. Rolando Navarro and DEU chief Juvenile Sulapas and their men for the latest recognition, saying this only shows the effective implementation of anti-illegal drug programs in Muntinlupa.

Homicide raps vs 7 Antipolo cops

BY NELSON F. FLORES

ANTIPOLO City police have filed multiple homicide charges against seven members of the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force who were accused of executing last Sunday four men they had suspected of being members of the New People's Army.

The charges were filed as the PNP Regional Police Office in Southern Tagalog sent a fact-finding mission in Antipolo to determine the veracity of the complaints against the accused.

Sr. Supt. Medardo Apacible, PNP RPO 4 deputy director and head of the investigating team, said no stone would be left unturned in the investigation. He visited the place where the alleged execution took place.

National Police Commission vice chair and executive officer Rogelio Pureza also ordered an investigation to determine whether the policemen could be held administratively liable for the killings.

Supt. Reynaldo Macalalad, Antipolo City police chief, said the homicide charges were filed against Senior Insp. Ericson Dilag, PO2 Ronald Cuya, PO2 Ernesto Bautista, PO2 Gatmar Jatalis, PO2 Pablito de la Cruz, PO1 Glen Salcedo and PO1 Crispin Cultinio, all members of the PNP-SAF based in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig. The charges were filed last Wednesday.

Macalalad said that based on the evidence gathered, government lawyers recommended only the filing of homicide charges, contrary to his earlier decision to file multiple murder charges against the suspects.

"However, there is still a chance that the charges would be upgraded to multiple murder once the result of the paraffin and ballistic examinations and the medico-legal report are released at the end of the month and prove the degree of the suspects' culpability," Macalalad explained.

The accused claimed they were on a mission to reconnoiter a suspected NPA training camp in Sitio Casunugan, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City, a mountainous area near the boundary of Rizal and Quezon provinces and a known NPA lair, when they encountered four men armed with shotgun rifles.

The men — Raul Maguiza, 38; Dominador Aniceto, 36; Emiliano de la Rosa, 48, and his 26-year-old son Reynald — allegedly engaged Dilag and his men in a gun battle and were killed in the process.

But relatives of the victims said the victims were just farmers who were summarily executed by the PNP-SAF men.

Barangay San Jose Chairman Edilberto Lagasca said Maguiza and De la Rosa were active purok leaders in his barangay and were known to the Antipolo City police.

Joel Egco, a nephew of Maguiza and a reporter of Manila Standard, said there are indications that the men, including his uncle, were tortured before they were killed.

Egco, who is the PNP Press Corps president, also noted that contrary to the claims of the seven suspects that the victims used automatic rifles, only four shotguns, three of which were homemade, were recovered at the alleged encounter site.

Antipolo Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan said he would shoulder all funeral expenses for the four victims.

With reports from Agnes E. Donato and Creamy Cedillo

MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter

Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.

But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.

Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release

OPENS OCTOBER 31

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.

Bubble BOY

IMAGINE LIVING YOUR LIFE INSIDE A PLASTIC BUBBLE...

Meet Jimmy Livingston (Jake Gyllenhaal), a 17-year-old kid who has all the normal experiences of a boy growing up, except he lives in a plastic bubble.

Then he falls in love, but the girl he wants will marry another---if he does not stop the wedding in time. So, Jimmy builds a bubble suit.

The movie is an outrageously funny road trip across the U.S., where Jimmy meets bikers, rock stars, freaks and a cult, racing against time and his parents, who are determined to bring him back to the safety of his "bubble room."

A hilarious coming-of-age comedy for anyone who has ever been in love.

LOOK OUT, WORLD, HERE COMES BUBBLE BOY!

OPENS IN CINEMAS ON NOV. 14

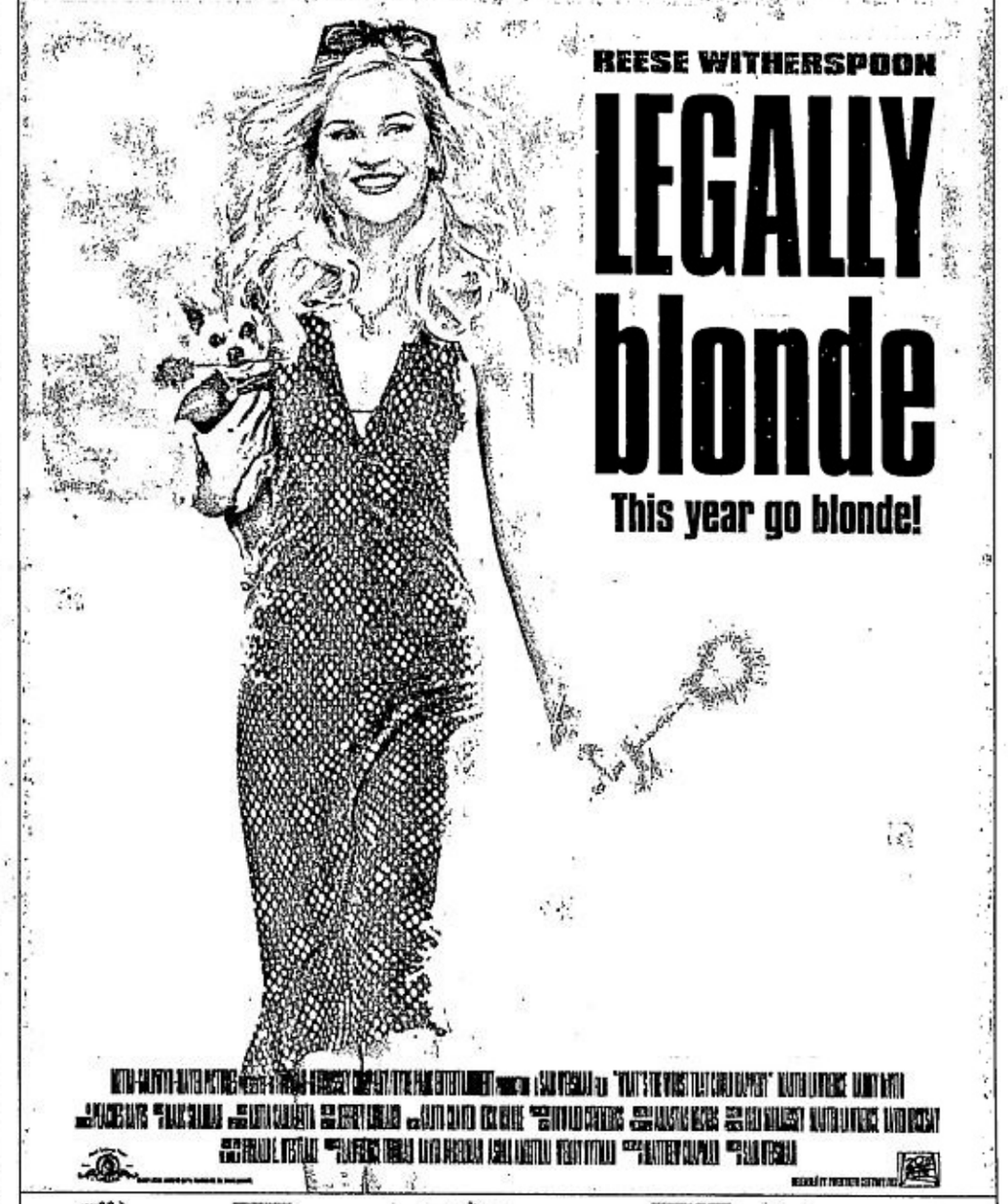
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING PG – 13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

REESE WITHERSPOON

LEGALLY blonde

This year go blonde!



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MTRCB RATING PG-13

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GO BLONDE @ AYALA CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Watch LEGALLY blonde @ AYALA CINEMAS

And win any of these: Legally Blonde soundtrack, premium items from U by Rustans, Timezone Game Passes, Italianni's Gift Certificates & Massimo T-shirts & more!

PLUS! Join the LEGALLY BLONDE & Timezone Gold Card Launch Party featuring pop band Strawberry Fields on Oct. 26, 7pm @ Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby.

Don't miss the fun because exciting prizes & surprises are at stake!

LEGALLY BLONDE (MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13), wic stars Reese Witherspoon, NOW SHOWING @ Ayala Cinemas!

Promo Period: Oct. 24 to Nov. 7, 2001.*See leaflets for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1647. Series of 2001.

AYALA CINEMAS

ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4

NOW SHOWING

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PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

stuart TOWNSEND | frances O'CONNOR | charlotte BRADLEY | & kate HUDSON

He's the most outrageous secret three sisters ever kept... from each other.

about Adam

A Romantic Comedy About A Tale Of Familial Sexual Intrigue

Lucy Owens has terrible luck in love. While doing her routine of singing torch songs, waiting tables, and complaining about her love life, she meets Adam. The two exchange just one look and Lucy is ready to marry him. However, Adam proves to be unpredictable as he sets out to date Lucy's sisters, Alice and Laura. A waitress falls for a handsome customer who seduces her, her two sisters, her brother, and her brother's girlfriend.

Featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

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OVER $140 MILLION AND COUNTING!
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JIM • NADIA • MICHELLE • STIFLER • FINCH • KEVIN
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"KNOCK-OUT ACTION ENTERTAINMENT!" – Peter Travers/Rolling Stones

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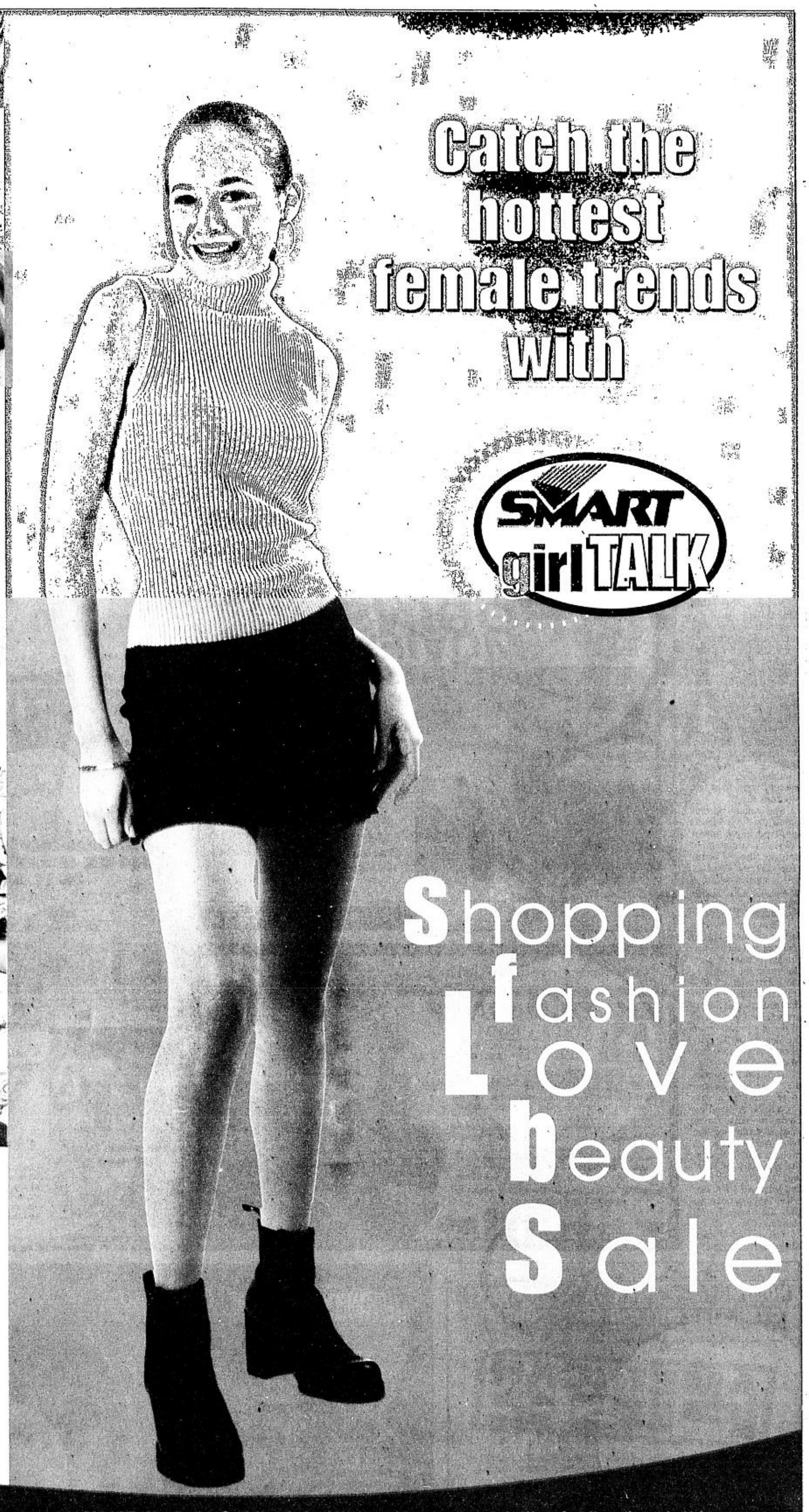
TRAINING DAY

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

NOW SHOWING

massimo



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CANDY LOVE	Daily love quotes
CANDY CHERRY	Fabulous finds from our resident Sale hunter
CANDY TRENDS	Get clued in on the latest fashion picks!
CANDY POLL	Weekly interactive poll
CANDY CELEBS	Access our database of your favorite famous people

KEYWORDS	DESCRIPTION
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FEN ZODIAC	List of going date zodiac signs
FEN BEAUTY	Weekly beauty tips
FEN SALE	Sale and promo alerts
FEN POLL	Weekly hot five hot lists
FEN CONTEST	A new Contest Code sent every week
FEN ZARAH	Reviews and reviews

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SMART GOLD Bluebelly

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

NEC to shut down HDD factory in RP

NEC Corp., the world's No. 2 semiconductor maker, announced in Tokyo that it would terminate its hard disk drive manufacturing operations in the Philippines in December this year as part of a drastic restructuring plan aimed at cutting down losses.

The planned closure of NEC Computer Storage Philippines Inc. (CSP), one of NEC's subsidiaries in the country, will affect 1,400 employees. Under the plan, the company will liquidate this subsidiary's assets by September next year.

CSP has yet to formally announce its mother company's decision but employees reached by the INQUIRER confirmed that there were already rumors about CSP's closure as early as September.

The hard disk drive manufacturing facility in Biñan, Laguna has been operating since 1999. It has been producing 3.5" HDD for desktop personal computer under a technology license agreement with IBM Corp, which will expire in December this year. It registered sales of $323 million for fiscal year ending March 31 this year.

Sources said the move would not affect NEC's other businesses in the Philippines including its four subsidiaries such as NEC Components Philippines, NEC Philippines, NEC Technologies Philippines and NEC Telecom Software Philippines, and their affiliates.

NEC Corp. of Japan yesterday said it suffered an interim loss of $249 million due to slack demand for personal computers and chips amid a global economic slump.

But the Japanese firm said it was determined to turn around its business next year by pushing on with a drastic restructuring plan to close loss-making businesses and cut jobs.

"Our semiconductor businesses were battered seriously. This slump is not a mere cyclical one but a structural problem," NEC executive director Shigeo Matsumoto told a news conference.

Group net loss for the first half to September came to 29.9 billion yen ($249 million), contrasting sharply with a net profit of 20.5 billion yen posted last year.

"This was due to a decrease in sales for PCs (personal computers) and electron devices resulting from a sudden drop in demand for IT-related (information technology) equipment," the Japanese hi-tech giant said in a statement.

Revenue for the six months edged down 0.4 percent from a year earlier to 2,468.0 billion yen, while its pre-tax loss stood at 34.3 billion yen, compared with a profit of 35.4 billion yen previously.

"We hope to achieve a 'V-shaped' recovery for the next fiscal year by carrying out drastic structural reform especially in the semiconductor section," Matsumoto said.

NEC maintained an earlier full-year forecast, which had already been revised down in the wake of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

Group net loss to March would come to 150 billion yen, on a pre-tax loss of 220 billion yen and revenue of 5,340 billion yen for the year.

"Economic conditions rapidly deteriorated resulting from the poor performance of IT companies, and the additional impact of the Sept. 11 attacks," NEC said in a statement.

In August, the firm announced plans to slash its global workforce by 4,000 this year and pull out of DRAM chip production by around 2004 to combat a huge drop in demand.

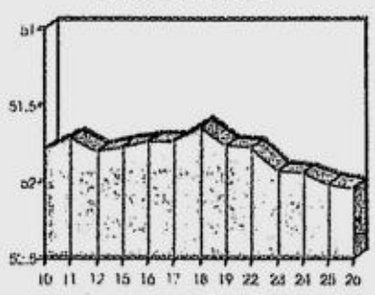
DRAM sales accounted for about 2 percent of NEC's total revenue in the year to March of 1,288.8 billion yen.

Gil C. Cabacungan, AFP

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱52.04 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 26, 2001

¥122.61 = $1

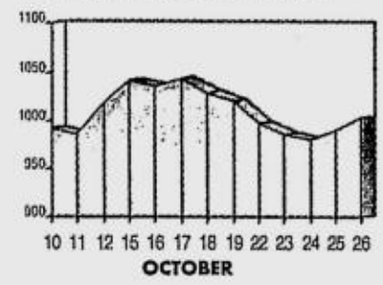
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 26, 2001

GOLD:$276.60/277.10

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 26, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close higher

SHARES ended higher yesterday on a technical recovery following Wall Steet's overnight gains, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed above its 1000-point psychological resistance with a 12.55-point or 1.3-percent gain to 1002.52.

On Thursday, the index rose 1.1 percent, ending a five-session decline that shaved off 6.1 percent from the index.

Blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was among the most actively traded, rising P10, or 2.7 percent, to P380. The stock took its cue from the 6-cent or 0.8-percent rise to $7.25 of PLDT's American Depositary Receipts in New York on Thursday.

Other analysts said institutional demands might have also helped the market post gains. ***AP***

Bank loans contract

FOR the first time in many years, loans extended by the banking sector contracted last August to P1.404 trillion from P1.408 trillion in the same period last year.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that compared to the month-ago level of P1.426 trillion, lending in August was lower by 1.54 percent.

Loans extended to the banks' biggest borrower, the manufacturing sector, posted a 2.8-percent decline in August.

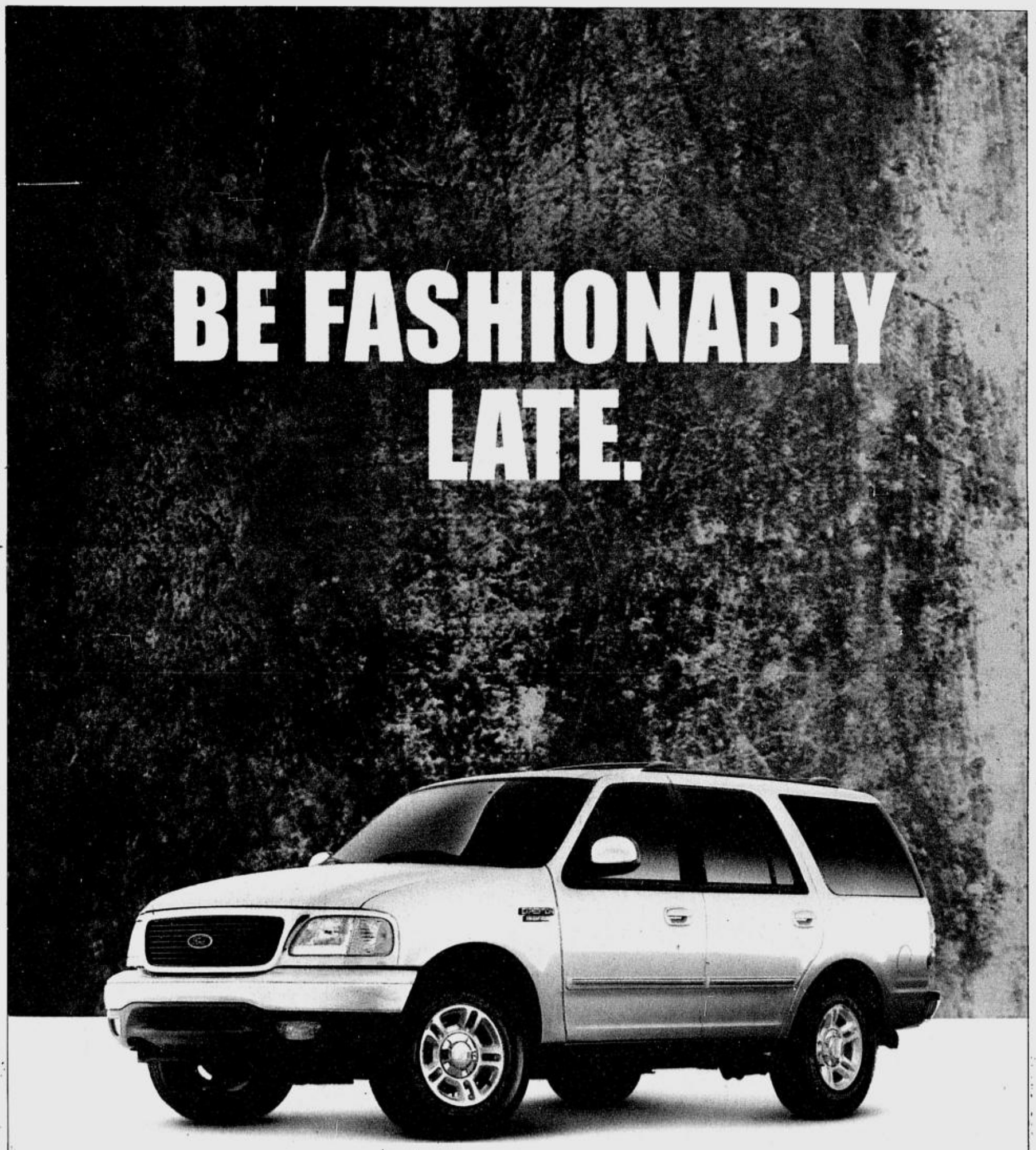
"The sluggish lending activity is partly due to the slowdown in business activities, particularly in the manufacturing sector. This is reflected in the decline in the volume of production by 2 percent in July," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The central bank chief is hoping that the local banking sector will manage to post a 3-percent growth in lending by yearend, much lower than the original projection of 10 percent.

"Any growth is better than none," the central bank chief said.

The manufacturing sector accounts for 27.2 percent of the total loan portfolio of banks followed by financial institutions, real estate and business services.

The wholesale and retail sector had the third largest chunk with15.1 percent. As of August, the sector posted the biggest growth in loans of 19.8 percent followed by the utilities group with a growth of 17.4 percent. ***Clarissa S. Batino***



ADB extends aid for drafting of dirty money law's rules

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE ASIAN Development Bank will extend technical assistance to the Philippine government for the drafting of the implementing rules and regulations of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

In a letter to SEC Chair Lilia Bautista on Wednesday, ADB senior financial economist Naomi Chakwin said, "the ADB will provide consultants with expertise in criminal and civil enforcement proceedings and in the conduct of investigations of money laundering cases involving, but not limited to, the securities and insurance industries."

The Anti-Money Laundering Act was enacted on Sept. 30, the deadline for the Philippines to put the law in place in order to avoid international sanctions. The Financial Action Task Force last June cited the Philippines as one of the country's three most uncooperative jurisdictions in efforts against money laundering.

The law requires the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Insurance Commission to promulgate the IRR within 30 days after the law took effect, which was on Oct. 17.

The law classifies money laundering as a criminal act. It calls for the formation of a three-member panel composed of the heads of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Insurance Commission to oversee compliance to reportorial requirements for financial transactions suspected of being related to illegal activities. The panel was also tasked to order the investigation of deposit accounts when warranted.

Aside from helping develop the IRR, the ADB consultants will provide assistance to design a monitoring system and database for the financial intelligence units of the SEC and the IC which will be linked to the central intelligence unit of the BSP.

They will also provide technical advice with respect to anti-money laundering practices, systems and programs that should be instituted in securities brokerage, mutual funds, pre-need companies and insurance corporations to ensure compliance with the anti-money laundering law.

Honda plans to enter AUV market

BY AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA

TOKYO—Toyota, Mitsubishi and Isuzu had better watch out; Honda Motor Co. is looking at the Asian utility vehicles or AUV market in the Philippines. If Honda does enter the AUV market, it will threaten Toyota, whose best-selling Revo Tamaraw AUV makes it the overall market leader in the country.

At a reception hosted by Honda for motoring journalists attending the 35th Tokyo Motor Show, Satoshi Toshida, president of Asian Honda, said in an informal interview with Filipino journalists that there was no reason for Honda not to consider the AUV market. "It is a very attractive market," Toshida said. "We know this market is very important. A lot of studies are being done by Honda."

However, Toshida added, Honda will need a car that can be adapted into a high quality yet competitively priced 10-seater AUV. "We checked and it's not impossible. We know it's difficult and we respect the government regulations in the Philippines. But if the authorities in the Philippines agree with us and our idea is acceptable to them, technically it's possible."

If and when Honda enters the AUV market, it will mark a paradigm shift for the company that is widely regarded as the Mercedes Benz of Japan's car manufacturers. Toshida admitted that when Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI) began operations in 1991, its corporate slogan was "Honda the Prestigious." Honda had a reputation for higher priced cars. But Honda has always identified itself with the people, Toshida said, pointing out that Honda started out as a motorcycle manufacturer. "For the lower end of the market, we have motorcycles. We are now trying to enlarge our market in all Asian countries by introducing lower priced cars while still maintaining high standards of quality. We prefer to target the bigger, affordable market instead of maintaining a small high priced market."

Toshida said that when HCPI introduced the Honda City, "we started cultivating the affordable market. Our strategy is to make more affordable cars of high quality, advanced technology and good looks like the Fit."

The 1.3-liter Fit Subcompact, launched in Japan last June, is equipped with a small eye-DSI (Dual and Sequential Ignition) engine that averages 23 km per liter.

A 4WD version was introduced in July.

DISCLOSURES

SUN Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. declared a quarterly dividend of C$0.12 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Nov. 19 and payable on Dec. 31.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. declared a P0.25 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of Nov. 23. The dividend is payable on Dec. 14. The company also said it would hold an investors' briefing on Oct. 29, 2 p.m. at the 2/F, executive dining room, SMC head office in Mandaluyong City.

* * *

FIL-HISPANO Holdings Corp. announced the resignation of Roberto Banares as director and treasurer of the company. Elected director was Roberto Atendido while Antonio Ramon Lopez was elected treasurer.

* * *

ASIATRUST Bank moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Nov. 16 to Dec. 7, 2 p.m. at the Mahogany Room of Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City.

* * *

METRO Pacific Corp. denied that Hong Kong-based **First Pacific Co.** had authorized the sale of Metro Pacific. It also said Metro Pacific was not involved in any talks on its sale.

* * *

BELLE Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 29, 2 p.m. at the 41/F Magellan Room of Discovery Suites, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 29 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MANILA Electric Co. confirmed it was shelving plans to construct a 35-megawatt co-generation plant in Batangas. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

New local oil players eye 13% of market

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

NEW entrants in the local oil industry are expected to grab a 12-percent to 13-percent share of the market by end-2001, the chief of the New Petroleum Players Association said.

NPPA president Fernando Martinez said in an interview that the figure would be an improvement from the new players' overall market share of 10 percent last year.

"We don't see a substantial increase in our market share because of the flat growth of oil demand in the local market," Martinez explained.

However, he said the new players would continue to be aggressive despite the low demand.

Martinez added the new oil firms accounted for 400 service stations nationwide.

The NPPA groups Castrol, Coastal and PTT (both of Subic Bay Distribution Inc.), Eastern Petroleum Corp., Flying V, Liquigaz Philippines Corp., Petrolino (3N2J Shipping & Trading Services Inc.), PryceGas, Rambi Development Corp., TotalFinaElf Philippines Corp. and Unioil.

Martinez said in February that the new oil firms were expecting about P200 million in profits this year.

Martinez, who is also president of Eastern Petroleum, said his company would continue to invest for the expansion of its operations.

"We are confident that we will meet our target of setting up 100 new stations in the next two years," he said.

As of last year, Eastern was operating at least 30 service stations, most of which are in Luzon.

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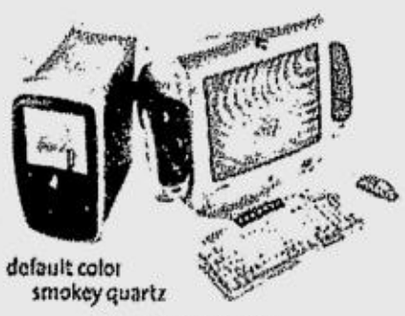

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Cosmos share price up

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

SHARE prices of RFM Corp. and its soft drink bottling unit Cosmos Bottling Corp. yesterday increased on news of the closing of a P14-billion deal with food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

RFM and CBC share prices rose by 7.14 percent and 6.73 percent, respectively, to close at P5.60 and P2.08.

SMC "A" share prices were unchanged while SMC "B" shares closed lower by 50 centavos to P45.50 as the positive impact of the P1-billion discount obtained by SMC for the acquisition of Cosmos was offset by SMC's lower-than-expected third quarter earnings performance.

The value of the brands will account for around 60 percent of the total P14 billion purchase price to be paid by Atlanta-based Coca Cola Co., which is acquiring Cosmos jointly with Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

The acquisition of Cosmos, the second biggest soft drink bottler in the country next to CCBPI, will give the SMC group 90-percent control of the local soft drink market.

Worldsec International Securities (Phils.) Inc. head of research Eric Claudio said SMC would benefit from higher profit arising from revenue contributions from Cosmos. Over the long term, however, he said it was possible that Cosmos' revenue contributions might decline under CCBPI's stewardship depending on what strategy the SMC group would adopt for the consolidated soft drink business.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, October 26, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	6,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	43	41.5	42	621,100
China Banking Corp.	525	550	525	550	32,870
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18	18.75	18	18.75	82,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	68	68	68	68	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	169	170	168	168	51,000
Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	46.5	47.5	26,900
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	18.5	17.5	18	6,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	7,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1150	1170	1150	1170	1,070
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1055	1030	1055	10,550
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	430,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	545	545	545	545	77,220
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	300,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	375	380	375	380	111,080
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	30,300,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	27,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	797,500
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	31.5	31.5	622,600
Petron Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.14	3,352,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.84	0.8	0.84	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.38	1.46	1.38	1.46	3,396,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.41	250,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.22	1.3	1.2	1.24	160,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	18,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	2,672,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	11	11	125,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	24	24	4,900
Pancake House Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
RFM Corp.	2.06	2.14	2.06	2.08	1,535,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	41,100
San Miguel Corp. B	46	46	45.5	45.5	228,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.1	439,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.4	0.4	0.37	0.37	40,000
Ayala Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.55	1,161,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11	11	11	500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,000
Baconotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.64	6,670,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.5	22.5	22	22.5	103,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Gueco Holdings (Phils.)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.58	340,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	90,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	170,000
Manila Jockey Club	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	17,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	26	26	26	26	200,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	10	11	10	11	4,000
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	50,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	8,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0046	0.0046	0.004	0.004	68,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	36,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	1,753,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	450,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	410,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	130,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	4,689,000
City & Land Developers	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	24,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	3,672,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.19	0.23	0.19	0.23	80,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.155	0.165	0.155	0.165	800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	5,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	13,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	2,000,000

CURRENCIES

Oct. 26, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.119821	1.000000	51.9700
Japan	Yen	0.009110	0.008135	0.4228
United Kingdom	Pound	1.600224	1.429000	74.2651
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143751	0.128370	6.6714
Switzerland	Franc	0.677406	0.604924	31.4379
Canada	Dollar	0.711992	0.635809	33.0430
Singapore	Dollar	0.614948	0.549149	28.5393
Australia	Dollar	0.564996	0.504541	26.2210
Bahrain	Dinar	2.970505	2.652661	137.8588
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298619	0.266667	13.8587
Brunei	Dollar	0.611924	0.546448	28.3989
Indonesia	Ruplah	0.611423	0.546001	28.3757
Thailand	Baht	0.024963	0.022292	1.1585
UAE	Dirham	0.304962	0.272331	14.1530
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000775	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.893000	46.4092
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.456584	23.7287
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136137	7.0750
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.405226	21.0596
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064897	3.3727
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022137	1.1505
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000461	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150192	7.8055
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004454	0.2315
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005367	0.2789
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022137	1.1505
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.133876	58.9275

LOWER FUEL PRICES

Inflation seen sliding to 5.9%

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE COUNTRY'S inflation rate probably slowed down further this month from last month's 6.1 percent, a year-low, on the back of lower fuel prices, weak consumer demand and favorable weather conditions, according to analysts.

Five stockbrokerages said October inflation probably slid to an average 5.9 percent.

ATR Kim Eng Securities Inc., HSBC Securities Philippines Inc., Abacus Securities Inc., AB Capital Securities Inc. and Worldsec International Securities Philippines Inc. gave the INQUIRER figures that ranged from 5.8 to 6.1 percent.

Worldsec research head Eric Claudio said this month's inflation probably fell to a new year-low at 5.8 percent considering last year's high base.

While year-on-year inflation probably decelerated, he said the consumer price index would likely inch up on a month-on-month basis.

"Inflation is not really a problem for this year. For next year, however, it will be. So far, third-quarter performance of the agriculture sector has been good so there won't be supply disruptions," Claudio said.

Abacus Securities economist Emilio Neri Jr. said inflation probably remained at its September level of 6.1 percent.

"There hasn't been any significant change in the country's economic conditions in October," he said.

Neri downplayed the effects of lower fuel prices, saying these would not necessarily bring about a sharp decline in inflation.

HSBC Securities research head Raffy Manalaysay said apart from the high base and lower fuel prices, the stable foreign exchange and interest rates even in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States would allow inflation to slow down to 5.9 percent in October.

ATR Kim Eng Securities and AB Capital Securities gave projections of 6 and 5.9 percent.

BMW corners 52% of luxury car market

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

BMW Philippines Corp. has cornered more than half of the premium luxury car market in the first nine months of the year, with sales nearly doubling despite poor market conditions.

BMW Philippines, a 70-30 joint venture between German carmaker BMW and local businessman Jose Ch. Alvarez, said sales rose 82.5 percent to 323 units from January to September from 177 units during the same period last year.

Its market share swelled from 23.9 percent last year to 52 percent this year.

BMW Philippine president Mark Gilbert said at an average selling price of P2.2 million per unit, BMW had a turnover of P710 million, and the company was gearing up for more ambitious growth next year.

Gilbert said the company performed well amid a declining market where total industry sales fell 14.5 percent last year, with the luxury car segment taking a big 18.4-percent fall.

He said strong sales reflected the positive response of car buyers to BMW's decision to establish a subsidiary in the Philippines, the first luxury carmaker to do so in the country.

"We did so at a time when the Philippine political system was volatile. But despite the situation then, BMW believed and continues to believe that the Philippines has great long-term potential that can only be realized if we make a long-term commitment here," Gilbert said.

BMW board of management member Michael Ganal said, "Many companies have become cautious in the wake of setbacks in the Asian markets in recent years. Many have adopted a policy of wait-and-see. We have chosen a different way forward because we believe more than ever in the future of Asia."

By selling directly to consumers rather than through importers, BMW has been able to introduce more models (11) and variants since its takeover in April this year and provided broader and more personal service to clients.

Gilbert said the new models served as stimuli for growth in the segment.

He said BMW Philippines was the only carmaker in its segment that assembled its cars (the BMW 3 series) in the country unlike its rivals.

Gov't raises borrowing requirement

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT has raised its borrowing requirement next year by 1.9 percent to P113.7 billion to cover for higher costs in its foreign borrowings.

Data from the Department of Finance show that the government is now planning to borrow P93.6 billion from the foreign market from its original target of P90 billion.

The amount the government will borrow from domestic sources, on the other hand, will remain at P65.6 billion.

The slightly higher borrowing next year will be used to pay the government's maturing debts, according to the finance department.

The government is setting aside a bigger amount to pay its debts. It plans to use some P159.2 billion for debt servicing, up from its original target of P155.6 billion.

This pushed up by 5.5 percent the government's gross borrowing to P272.9 billion from its previous target of P267.4 billion.

"The increase would imply a slight change in the borrowing mix from 48.2 percent domestic against 51.8 percent foreign to 47.2 percent local against 52.8 percent foreign," a finance official told reporters.

Still, the official pointed out that next year's funding requirements were still more than 30 percent lower than this year's P173.8 billion.

The budget deficit target for next year was kept at P130 billion.

Another finance official explained that the foreign borrowing binge under the Ramos and Estrada administration was already catching up with the Macapagal administration.

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October 27, 2001 to January 31, 2002
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Pang-hanapbuhay Papremyo ng Seaoil
1ST PRIZE
1 TOYOTA REVO DLX DIESEL 2000 MODEL
Sa highway ng buhay natin,
maghanapbuhay habang nag-si-Seaoil.
Dahil dito, may instant-premyo scratch card ka na,
may pang-hanapbuhay raffle coupon ka pa!
Huwag magpahuli, baka sakali ikaw na ang manalo
ng bagong pang-hanapbuhay na hari ng daan,
ang Toyota Revo DLX Diesel,
sa pagdating ng bagong taon
2ND PRIZE
3 KAWASAKI KD-125CC MOTORCYCLES
3RD PRIZE
5 INTERNET-HIGHWAY READY PC's. COMPLETE SET W/ MONITOR, CPU, CD ROM AND MODEM.
CONSOLATION PRIZE
10 MOBILE PHONES (NOKIA 3310, units only)
SCRATCH CARD
Actual prizes may vary from photos
Simple lang para manalo!
1. Ang promoting ito ay para sa mga customers ng Seaoil Petroleum. Ang participating outlets ay nasa Metro Manila at provincial stations na magsisimula ng October 27, 2001 hanggang January 31, 2002.
2. Sa bawat P300-halaga ng biniling Seaoil fuel, Prolube lubricant, o Seaoil Polymeg items (maguing sa isang bilihan o di kaya ay unipong mga resibo ng pagbili), sa loob ng promo period, makakakuha ang customer ng isang game card.
INSTANT PANG-HANAPBUHAY SCRATCH PAPREMYO:
3. I-scratch ang tatlong silver squares sa card. Ang lahat ng scratch cards ay may security code. May premyong makukuha kung may lumabas sa alinmang mga kombinasyong ito:
3 Seaoil logos= 1 Seaoil Special Prize;
1 Prolube logo = 1 Seaoil Premium Item
4. Sa pagkuha ng instant na premyo, kailangang i-surrender ang scratch card portion sa Station Officer-in- Charge para ma- validate.
5. Ang lahat ng instant scratch-card prizes ay dapat ma-claim bago mag-March 31, 2002. Ang premyong hindi na-claim sa duration na ito ay mamumuring na forfeited pabor sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation, sa prior approval ng DTI.
6. Ang mga nanalong game cards na may winning combination of authenticated security codes lamang ang puwedeng manalo. Hindi dapat tanggalan ng customer ang latex sa "VOID IF SCRATCHED" panel. Ang alinmang game card na maluluring na nasira, pinakialaman, gaya, binago sa anumang paraan, o may di makabasang security code, ay agad na ituturing na null and void.
PANG-HANAPBUHAY RAFFLE PAPREMYO:
7. Gupitin ang portion ng raffle entry para makasali sa raffle draw. Sa raffle portion ng game card ay dapat isulat ng customer ang kanyang pangalan, address, telepono at lagdaan at ihulog sa designated drop box sa participating outlet o di kaya ilagay sa legal sized white envelope at ipadala ang inyong entries sa:
"Bagong Taon, Bagong Hari Ng Daan"
c/o Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office
GIF Meridien Building
29 Annapolis Street, Greenhills
San Juan, Metro Manila
8. Ang deadline ng pag-submit ng entries ay sa January 31, 2002 hanggang 6 o' clock ng gabi.
9. Ang raffle ay gagawin sa February 8, 2002, sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office, GIF Meridien Building #29 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, in the presence of a DTI representative, para sa mga sumusunod na prizes:
First Prize - 1 Toyota Revo DLX Diesel 2000 MODEL (excluding all registration requirements)
Second Prizes - 3 Kawasaki KD-125CC Motorcycles (excluding all registration requirements) para sa 3 winners
Third Prizes - 5 Internet Highway-Ready PC's. Complete set w/ monitor, cpu, cd rom and modem, para sa 5 winners
Consolation Prizes - 10 Mobile Phones (Nokia 3310 units only) para sa 10 winners
10. Ang mananalo ng lahat ng raffle prizes ay pedadalhan ng registered mail. Sa pag-claim ng premyo, kailangang mag-presenta ng kahit na anong valid ID (company o school ID, passport, o driver's license), at kailangan ding ipakita ang natanggap na registered mail.
11. Ang lahat ng raffle prizes ay transferable ngunit hindi ito convertible to cash. Seaoil Petroleum Corp. ang magbabayad 20% tax sa lahat ng premyong higit sa P 10,000.
12. Ang isang customer ay puwede lamang manalo ng isang beses. Kung nabunot nang dalawang beses ang kanyang pangalan, makukuha niya lamang ang isang premyong may mas malaking halaga, at mag-du-draw uli para sa bakanteng premyo.
13. Ang lahat ng napanalunang premyo sa draw ay puwedeng ma-claim sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office, GIF Meridien Building, #29 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila mula 9:00 a.m. hanggang 6:00 p.m. Lunes hanggang Biyernes.
14. Kapag hindi na-claim ang nyong premyo sa loob ng 60 araw mula sa araw ng notification, ang premyo ay ituturing na forfeited pabor sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation, sa prior approval ng DTI.
15. Ang lahat ng raffle draw winners ay dapat aumang-ayon na mahuman o di kaya magbigay ng litrato para sa delahtalang announcement-of-winners print ad ng Seaoil.
16. Ang lahat ng empleyado ng Seaoil Petroleum Corporation, mga sister companies nito, Mastermind Asia Communications, mga suppliers ng Seaoil, at mga Seaoil dealers, at ang kanilang mga kamag-anak hanggang sa second degree of affinity or consanguinity ay awtomatikong diskalipikado sa pagsali sa scratch at raffle promong ito.(S)
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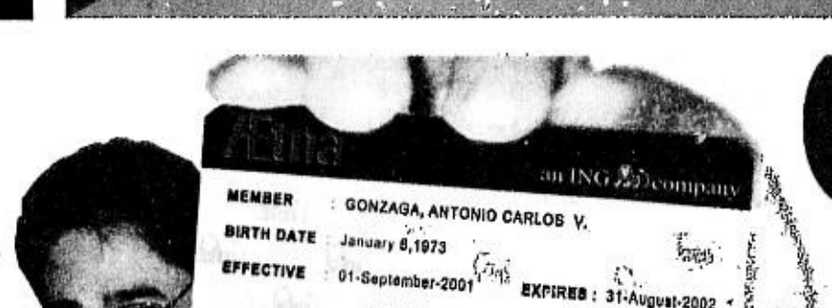
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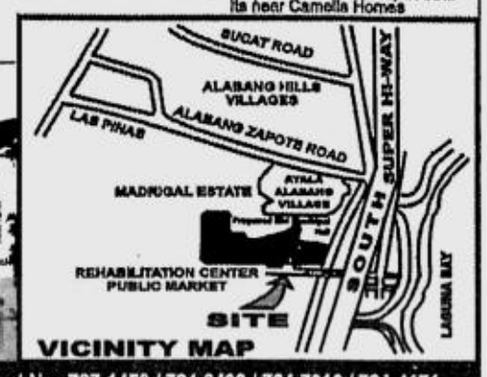

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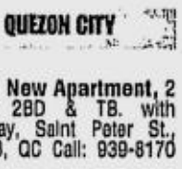

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of **MA. CLARA VIRGINIA R. BONDAD** who died on December 11, 1997 was extrajudicially settled from among their heirs as Doc. No. 24; Page No. 7; Book No. VII; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Ma. Angelica C. Dychiao of Paranaque City.
(PDI-Oct.20,27,Nov.3,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SO CHING YONG UY has been extra-judicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 203; Page No. 41; Book No. III; Series of 2001 of Notary Public H.B. Basco of Manila
(PDI-Oct.20,27&Nov.3,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that the S2 Lic. #892794 under the name of Dr. Mario R. Martinez was lost.(PDI-10/27/01)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City, 1100 Philippines • Telephone 925-24-01

"The Philippine Heart Center, Division of Anesthesia is accepting applicants for Fellowship in **Cardiovascular Anesthesia.**

All applicants must be graduate of an accredited Anesthesia Residency Training Program. For inquiries, contact OER tel. 925-24-01 local 3234-3236 or Anesthesia office local 2268.

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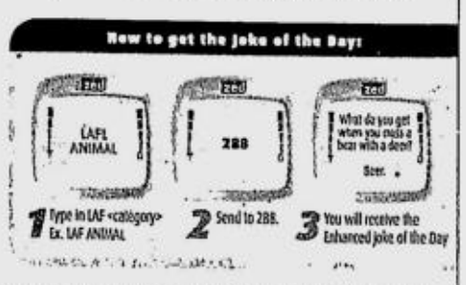

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for:

I. One (1) year contract (Jan.-Dec. 2002) for the following:
a. Laundry Services (linens)
b. Supply of Medical Oxygen (tanks only)
c. Aircon Maintenance

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **Nov. 12, 2001** at Purchasing Division.

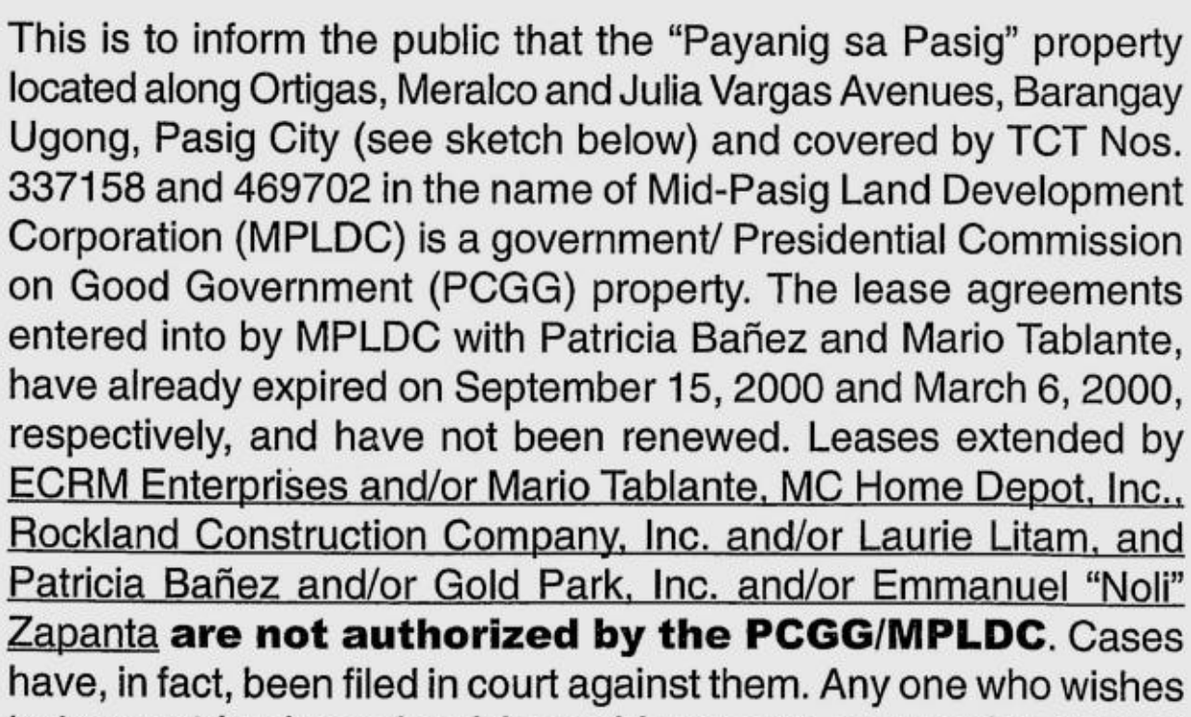
The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Oct. 26, 27, 28, Nov. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the "Payanig sa Pasig" property located along Ortigas, Meralco and Julia Vargas Avenues, Barangay Ugong, Pasig City (see sketch below) and covered by TCT Nos. 337158 and 469702 in the name of Mid-Pasig Land Development Corporation (MPLDC) is a government/ Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) property. The lease agreements entered into by MPLDC with Patricia Bañez and Mario Tablante, have already expired on September 15, 2000 and March 6, 2000, respectively, and have not been renewed. Leases extended by ECRM Enterprises and/or Mario Tablante, MC Home Depot, Inc., Rockland Construction Company, Inc. and/or Laurie Litam, and Patricia Bañez and/or Gold Park, Inc. and/or Emmanuel "Noli" Zapanta **are not authorized by the PCGG/MPLDC**. Cases have, in fact, been filed in court against them. Any one who wishes to transact business involving said property or a portion thereof must deal with Presidential Commission on Good Government/ Mid-Pasig Land Development Corporation.



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Just bring two (2) clear copies of the following requirements:
1. CGFNS Certificate*
2. B.S.N. Diploma
3. PRC License
4. Picture page from Passport
5. Board Exam Rating
6. Transcript of Records
7. Resumé with 2x2 pictures
8. Work Certificates

** Those who are just waiting for their CGFNS result may also apply.*

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENERATION COMPANY I
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 527-4880-82
GENCO I-2001-001 (PBD)

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED SCRAP STEEL MATERIALS LOCATED AT MALAYA THERMAL PLANT, Pililla, Rizal "AS IS WHERE IS"

Date of Bidding: **November 13, 2001** Time of Bidding: **2:00 PM**

	Description of Item	Estimated Quantity	Minimum Bid Price
1.	Scrap Steel	224,255 kgs. (more or less)	P 2.85/kilo
2.	Scrap Steam Coil Air Heater (with Aluminum Fins)	2,350 kgs. (more or less)	P 8,734.00/unit

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 PM on November 13, 2001. Sealed bids will be publicly opened on the scheduled date at First Floor, GENCO I Bidding Room, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Proposal Bond Deposit in the form of cash or Manager's Check equivalent to ten (10%) percent of total estimated bid.**
2. **Latest Income Tax Return of the bidder or financial statement of the company.**
3. **Request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from the Warehouse Section-Administration Division at the above address and inquiries can be made at the stated telephone number. Likewise, representatives must bring with them written authorization form the business establishment of which they are representing. Deadline for issuance of bid forms is on November 12, 2001. The National Power Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as maybe advantageous to its interest.**

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Department Manager
Professional Services-GENCO I

(PDI – Oct. 26 & 27, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SLRC-2001-11B

The Southern Luzon Regional Center (SLRC), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 14, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1-A12	45 PCS	COMPUTER CASING/HARDWARES (COMPRISE OF 12 PRS)	VARIOUS PRS
A13	1 LOT	MODEM, LAN CARD, TESTER, ETC.	3PTG01-044B
A14	32 PCS	COMPUTER SOFTWARE (WINDOWS 2000, OFFICE XP, ANTIVIRUS)	3PTG01-050
A15	2 UNITS	DESKTOP & NOTEBOOK COMPUTER	PSMD01-120
		DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 15, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	2 UNITS	RENTAL OF COPYING MACHINE	3ADM01-211
B2	498 REAM	BOND PAPERS (PAPER COPIER)	3ADM01-210
B3	1 UNIT	ELECTRIC MOTOR	3NCS01-076
B4	1 LOT	CIRCUIT BREAKER, CONTACTOR, ETC	3NCS01-068
B5	1 LOT	WRENCH, BALL HAMMER, ETC	3QUE01-275
B6	1 LOT	J.O. REHABILITATION OF HYDRAULIC SYSTEM, BRIMONT TELELEC	3QUE01-190
B7	1 LOT	PENETRATING OIL, CLEANER, TERMINAL LUGS, CABLE TIES, ETC.	3OPO01-010
		DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 16, 2001; 2:00 PM	
C1	1 LOT	APPLICATION SERVER PERIPHERALS	3IMD01-0001
C2	4 PCS	BATTERY, LEAD ACID	3MAK01-476
C3	525,000 KG	SODIUM HYDROXIDE (CAUSTIC SODA)	3MAK01-409
C4	1 LOT	PACKING RING, BEARING METAL	3MAK01-369
C5	1 LOT	SPARE PARTS FOR ABS-JUMBO PUMP TYPE, MECHANICAL SEAL	3MAK01-437
C6	1 LOT	J.O. SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS REPAIR REHABILITATION OF (IAC) INSTRUMENT AIR COMPRESSOR INLET DUCT	3TIW01-0033
C7	1 LOT	J.O. SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS REHABILITATION OF 13.8KV TRANSMISSION & COMMUNICATION LINES	3TIW01-030
C8	1 LOT	J.O. SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS REHABILITATION OF CONTROL PANELS	3TIW01-029

Note: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1) C6 - November 9, 2001; 9:00 a.m. at SLRC Bidding Room
2) C7 - November 9, 2001; 10:00 a.m. at SLRC Bidding Room
3) C8 - November 9, 2001; 11:00 a.m. at SLRC Bidding Room

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **October 30, 2001**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bid documents for Schedules C1-C8 may be obtained from MMS GENCO 6.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **November 9, 2001** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/ Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) **R.D. RAMAS**
Manager, Administration

(PDI – Oct. 27, 2001)

MAKE A CAREER CHOICE ONLINE.

Gov't to defend key T-bill rate, DOF says

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT said it would protect the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate from pressures that might bring the yield up to double-digit levels next week.

"We will resist market attempts to drive up the 91-day T-bill rates to double-digit levels," said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho. He said he would discuss with National Treasurer Sergio Edeza measures that would prevent T-bill rates from going up.

T-bill and bond yields have been edging up in the secondary market on market jitters over the ongoing US-led strikes on Afghanistan.

The Monetary Board on Thursday left the benchmark overnight interest rates unchanged.

The overnight borrowing rate is at 8.75 percent and the lending rate at 11 percent.

"No change because inflation numbers have not gone up and our interest rates have been at a record low for some time now," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said. "If the (US) Fed lowers by 50 basis points and inflation is also lower, there's a possibility of us cutting again." One threat to inflation may be a minimum wage hike now being debated in Congress, he said.

Buenaventura also noted that interest policy was being influenced by other external factors but did not elaborate.

Reacting to calls for a reduction in the central bank's policy rates to 8 percent, Buenaventura said the movement in T-bill yields should be better addressed by the national government, not the central bank.

Tariff body clears agreement on disposing industrial wastes

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE CABINET-LEVEL Tariff and Related Matters committee has cleared a bilateral agreement between Manila and Washington, allowing American semiconductor firms here to ship hazardous wastes to the Unites States.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said yesterday that the TRM endorsed to the Department of Foreign Affairs the unloading of scrap and trimmings from factories of US chipmakers here to the United States.

Roxas said the TRM's decision would finally resolve a long-standing issue on the recycling and proper disposal of hazardous wastes stockpiled by US firms producing microprocessors in the Philippines.

The Philippines cannot unload hazardous wastes without a formal agreement with Washington.

Under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, a separate memorandum of agreement has to be forged if one of the parties is not a signatory.

The United States is not a signatory to the Basel Convention rules.

The Philippines and the United States have been in deep discussions for a memorandum of agreement on the shipment of hazardous wastes since 1998, but talks have been stalled due to disagreements on whether to adopt a one-way or two-way shipment of hazardous wastes.

The Philippines wants a one-way shipment because it has no facility to safely dispose or recycle these wastes.

While the Clean Air Act of 1999 has banned the use of incinerators in the country, it allows the government to negotiate for the inward shipment of industrial wastes in the country for recycling and use as raw materials.

Roxas said the TRM approved only the shipment of hazardous wastes outside the Philippines.

Last month, Manila and Washington signed an agreement that allowed local electronics and semiconductor companies to ship hazardous industrial wastes to the United States.

The agreement was expected to significantly reduce the costs of certain key industries in the country.

The agreement was signed by Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. and former US Embassy charge d'affaires Michael Malinowski.

Guingona said electronics firms here would benefit from the "convenient, inexpensive and practical means" of hazardous waste disposal covered by the agreement.

"This agreement, whereby these wastes will be shipped to the US and processed in appropriate treatment facilities (there), provides an excellent opportunity to reduce the cost of doing business in the Philippines," Guingona said.

The accord was also an "important step in achieving the country's environmental and sustainable development objectives," he said.

Malinowski, who ended his tour of duty in Manila last Wednesday, said the agreement was "environmentally responsible" as well as economically beneficial to both nations.

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Tokyo to give financial aid to airlines, agencies

TOKYO—Japan's government and ruling parties have worked out a rescue package for airlines and travel agencies, both hard-hit by a sharp drop in tourism following the Sept. 11 terror attacks, a report said Friday.

The government-affiliated Development Bank of Japan will extend low-interest loans to airlines to help them repay loans taken from private banks for aircraft purchases, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported.

The government will also set up a new loan program at the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to provide funds to be used as deposits for the purchase of new airplanes, it said.

To lighten the tax burden on airline operators, the government and ruling parties will discuss extending a special tax break program for aircraft depreciation costs, which is slated to expire the year to March, it said.

For travel agencies, prefectural credit guarantee associations will also extend credit guarantees of up to 400 million yen ($3.3 million), double the current 200 million yen, the business daily said.

The credit guarantees would make it easier for the agencies to take out loans from private financial institutions, it said.

No confirmation was available from the government on the report. Transport ministry officials said the authorities were still working on what it could do following requests for support from both industries.

The Japan Association of Travel Agents, grouping 1,300 agencies, said Wednesday the nation's 11 largest agencies faced overseas trip cancellations by 750,000 people in the month since the Sept. 11 attacks. *AFP*

Data paint dismal economy

WASHINGTON—The number of Americans signing up for jobless benefits rose last week while orders for costly US durable goods and existing home sales plunged in September, according to a series of reports released on Thursday that painted a grim picture of the US economy.

Adding to the tide of negative data that weighed on stock markets and boosted bonds, a private research group said its index of help wanted advertising also dropped.

Analysts say the reports harden the conviction that the already weak US economy has slid into a recession following the attacks on Sept. 11 and strengthens expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates for the 10th time this year when it meets on Nov. 6.

"Clearly all of the numbers put together confirm the overall economic environment is becoming quite dismal," Anthony Karydakis, senior financial economist at Banc One Capital Markets in Chicago, told Reuters Television.

The Bush administration is pressing to get a stimulus package through Congress to help the shaky economy. The House of Representatives on Wednesday narrowly approved a Republican-backed plan that would inject $100 billion into the economy over the next year.

Stocks, initially pushed lower by the weak data, staged a dramatic turnaround by the end of the session on hopes that the stimulus package and the Fed's nine rate cuts this year would lead to a recovery by next year.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished more than 117 points, or 1.25 percent higher, at 9,462.9, while the tech-laden Nasdaq rose 2.54 percent to 1,775.47.

The labor department said the number of first-time jobless claims rose 8,000 to a seasonally adjusted 504,000 for the week ended Oct. 20. The four-week moving average of initial claims, considered a more reliable gauge than the weekly data, climbed 12,000 to 505,000, a level unseen since March 1991, at the end of the last US recession.

And in a sign workers who are losing their jobs are having trouble finding new ones, continued claims for state jobless benefits for the week ended Oct. 13—the most recent week for which data were available—rose 56,000 to 3.65 million, the highest level in more than 18 years.

"There's no doubt that the claims data point to a significantly higher unemployment rate at some point in the next few months," Stephen Stanley, senior financial economist at Greenwich Capital Markets in Greenwich, Connecticut, said.

Last month, the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent, the highest level in four years.

In another report pointing to economic weakness, the commerce department said orders for costly US durable goods fell for the fourth straight month in September.

Led by big declines in orders for aircraft, computers and communications equipment, the value of new orders for long-lasting goods last month plunged 8.5 percent to $165.44 billion, the lowest level since August 1996. The drop in September followed a 0.5-percent decline in August.

The decline in September was the biggest drop since January, and marked the first time durable orders fell for four straight months since the series began in 1992, commerce department officials said. Durable goods are items that are meant to last for three years or more.

"The orders numbers suggest that capital spending is continuing to go down a black hole," said Ian Morris, chief US economist at HSBC Securities in New York.

Fed Chair Alan Greenspan is keeping a close eye on durable goods orders and employment data as gauges of the economy's health following the attacks in New York and Washington that left more than 5,000 dead, according to lawmakers who met with the central bank chief last month. *Reuters*

Malaysian economy 'okay'–IMF

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's economy is "quite okay" compared with other countries in the region, a visiting International Monetary Fund team said.

IMF executive director Dono Iskandar Djojosubroto made the remark to reporters after meeting Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Thursday, newspapers said Friday.

Dono Iskandar and four other executive directors of the fund were in Malaysia on the last leg of a tour, which has already taken them to Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

"So far, we agree that Malaysia is quite okay compared with other countries in the region like Indonesia. Things look alright, with inflation very low and the budget is sustainable," Dono Iskandar said.

The delegation has said it is here to listen and not to negotiate with or direct Malaysia on what it should do with its economy.

"In fact, I as IMF executive director for Asia, invited the other executive directors to come to my region to familiarize themselves with this area," said Dono Iskandar, who is from Indonesia.

Delegation leader Wei Benhua said the visit, a routine practice by the Washington-based IMF, is to enhance its understanding of the economic situation and policies of member countries.

"We are not supposed to take a position. We are here to listen to the views of the authorities and bring back (the finding) to Washington. Next time, when we have discussions on policy issues, we'll be in a better position to make an assessment," Wei said. *AFP*

Terror crisis to hit attendance at HK forum

HONG KONG—The terrorism crisis will cut attendance by about 10 percent at a World Economic Forum meeting next week in Hong Kong, according to organizers who said Friday that they expect no trouble from anti-globalization protesters.

"There will be no disruptions," said Frank Richter, the Asia director of the World Economic Forum, at a news conference. "Participants will be able to fully enjoy the summit."

Anti-globalization groups plan demonstrations and events involving about 500 people on Sunday, a day before the three-day forum opens, but no activists have announced plans for any repeats of the massive street protests that have marred other global financial conferences.

Hong Kong police have said they will have about 500 police on duty to maintain order around the World Economic Forum, compared with 3,000 called out when Chinese President Jiang Zemin appeared at a convention in May that drew protests from the Falun Gong meditation sect.

A World Economic Forum spokesperson, Charles McLean, said the conference will attract only about 90 percent of the participants organizers had expected before the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States, but he said the number still showing up—about 800 participants are expected—proves the worth of such global conferences.

"You can't just do business exchanging e-mails—you have to meet," Richter said. *AP*

Rich get richer in communist China–survey

SHANGHAI—"To get rich is glorious," late patriarch Deng Xiaoping famously said, and a list of China's 100 wealthiest people released Friday by the Forbes business magazine showed Chinese capitalists had taken him at his word.

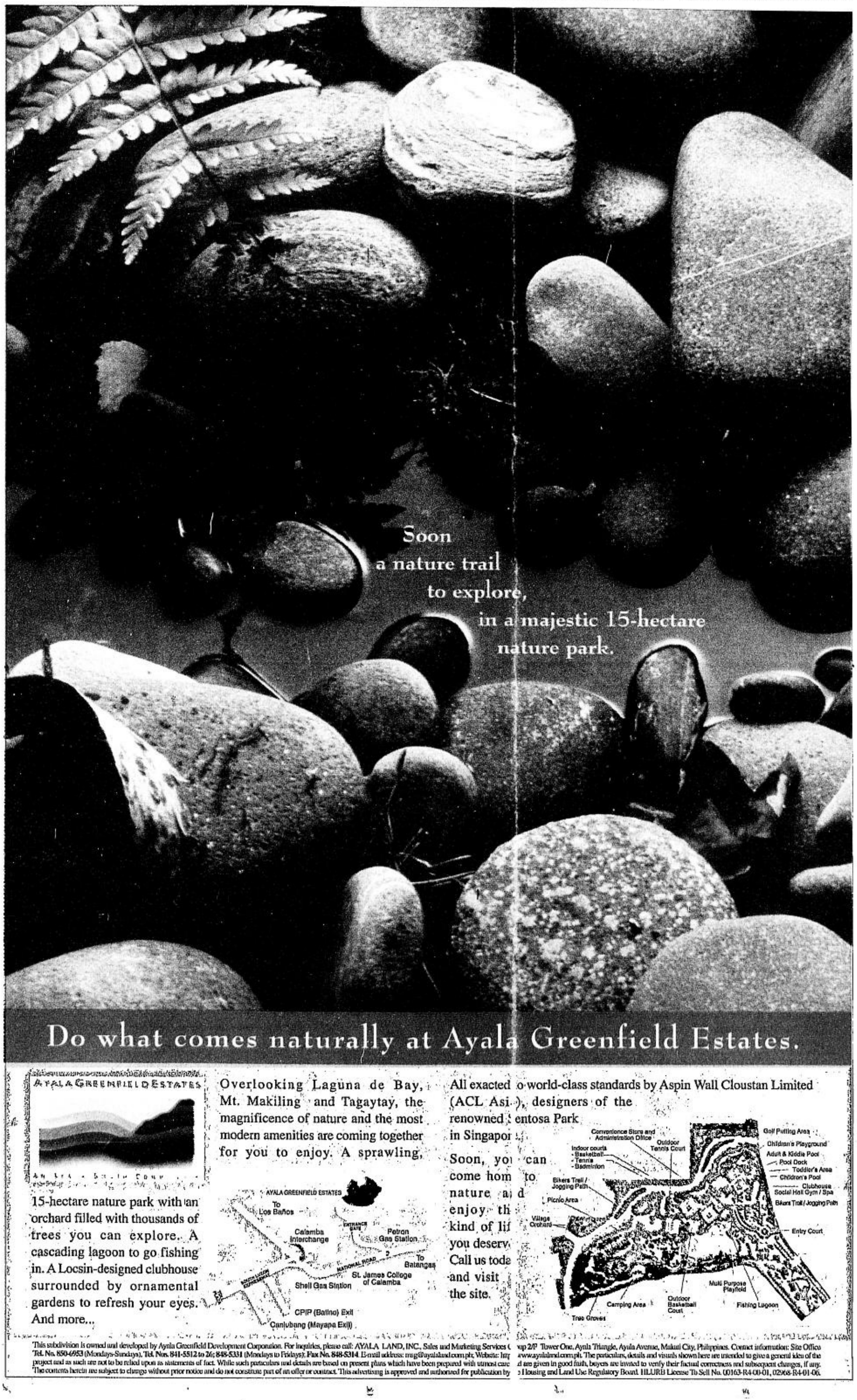
Despite a downturn in the global economy, the rich in ostensibly communist China are getting decidedly richer, the survey shows.

Those listed this year have racked up a combined wealth of 150 billion yuan ($18 billion), with No. 100 worth $60 million alone, the widely researched study by Forbes Global Magazine says.

In 2000, the 50th person on the rich list—as far as the survey went then—was worth only $42 million, with the same position in 1999 amassing a mere $6 million in assets. This year's No. 50 is worth a cool $110 million.

China's richest men are cited as Liu Yongxing and Liu Yonghao, brothers with a combined wealth of more than $1 billion, who run the Hope Group, the country's largest animal feed producer.

The siblings began their business in the southwestern province of Sichuan selling feed for quails and chickens, and their operations snowballed with little outside help. *AFP*



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NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The MPSC Board of Trustees formally and publicly announces that the search for the Presidency of Mindanao Polytechnic State College is now open. Interested applicants are invited to send their formal application to: The Honorable Commissioner Carlito S. Puno, Chair, MPSC Search Committee for Presidency,

c/o **DR. HERNANDO R. GOMEZ**
Commission on Higher Education
DAP Building, San Miguel Avenue or
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
TeleFax No. (02) 636-1693

GILDA M. MAQUILING, MPA
BOT Secretary-Des. MPSC
Cagayan de Oro City
TeleFax No. (088) 856-4696

➢ **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Earned Doctoral Degree preferably within the thrusts of MPSC
2. With at least five (5) years of relevant managerial and administrative experience
3. Has no record of criminal, civil and/or administrative conviction
4. Must be a Filipino citizen of good moral character

➢ **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Formal Application Letter
2. Comprehensive Resumé
3. 5 pcs. of 2x2 ID Picture (most recent)
4. NBI/Ombudsman Clearance

Note: All supporting documents must be authenticated.

➢ **Deadline for submission of Application and Requirements: November 5, 2001**

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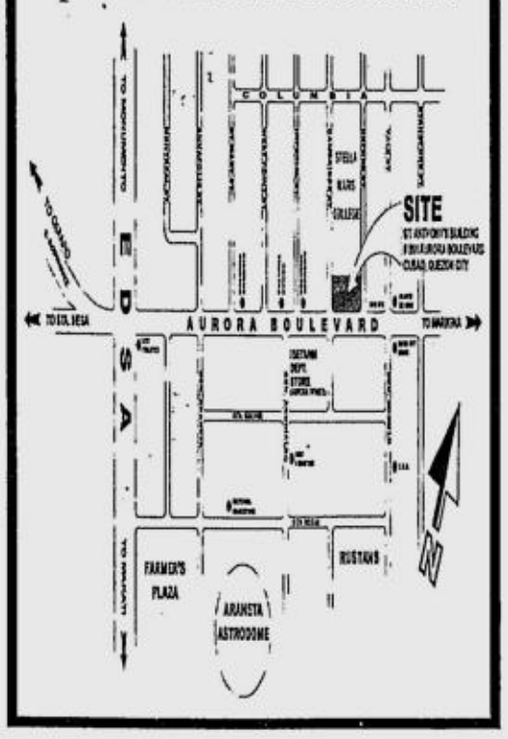

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INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1 01-012 (PB)

DATE OF BIDDING -- NOVEMBER 9, 2001

0107-038 - TES	1 lot, S/P of Clarifier Agitator, Reactor Clarifier, Type HRB, size 18'-0" dia. x 12'-0" SWD with W12 CR Drive, Drive Assy. Dwg. No. 000737, Manufactured by Aquatech International Corp., consisting of 8 items
0108-042 - TES	1 job, Hardfacing of six (6) pcs. worn out conical type grinding rolls
0109-046	1 job, To supply labor and materials for the printing and binding of BCFTPP II Operation Log Books, consisting of 9 items
0110-008 - TES	8 pcs., Optimized Lower & Upper Burner Crotch Panels, Preferred Brands/Manufacturers Alstom, Mitsubishi and BHPI
0110-012	2 units, Notebook Computer, Intel Mobile Pentium III Speed Step Technology, 800 MHz (min.), System Memory 128 MB
0110-027 - TES	1 lot, S/P & Instruments of Atlas Copco Motive Air Compressor, consisting of 9 items
0110-028	15 boxes Fastener, for heavy duty conveyor belts, std. stainless steel + carbon steel staples, packing 1 box containing 10 strips x 200 mm/strip good to splice 1 m belt width, TITAN IR No. 26, PN T10010626B and 10 pcs. Flexible Armoured Stainless Steel Connecting Pin, 7.0 mm dia. for 1400 mm belt width, PN AXE607011400, Manufactured by GORO
0110-029	8 pcs., Spring, square end ground enclosed in natural rubber, rod size 20 mm, free length 432 mm, no. of coils 8
0110-030	150 m², Supply of labor, material, installation, tools, equipment and technical supervision for the application of Polyurethane Waterproofing System for Fuel Laboratory Roofdeck at BCFTPP
0110-031	3 pcs., Booster Relay for reheater Auxiliary Steam & Feed Water Regulating Valve, Model 4514 A, max. supply press. 250 psi, max. output press. 150 psi, max. inlet press. 150 psi, ratio 1:1, Port Signal 1/4 NPT, Supply & Output (Pipe size) 1/2 NPT, Brand Fairchild
0110-032 - TES	1 lot, Resistor, Thyristor, Protistor, Transducer, Fan Motor, Ammeter, Voltmeter, Coil, Switch, Annunciator, Module Card and Horn for annunciator
0110-033	51 prs. Safety Shoes, semi high cut with steel toe cap, oil and chemical resistance, anti-static, extra light polyurethane sole, water proof, color brown, materials cow grain leather and 40 pcs. Safety Helmet, white, top safe, Brand ABS with engraved NPC Logo and or equivalent
0110-034	33 cyls., Refilling of Fire Extinguisher Cylinder, dry chemical stored pressure, chemical content must be for Class A, B & C fires known as Mono-ammonium Phosphate based, capacity 20 lbs. Dry Chemical, 20 lbs. CO_2 & 100 lbs. CO_2
0110-043	1 lot, Various consumable items for the rehabilitation of comfort room, consisting of 13 items
0110-044 - TES	6 kits, Eddy Current Clutch to VFD Convertion Kit and 196 NT MPC K1 & K7 with hinge panel Retrofit Kit, Gravimetric Coal Feeder Microprocessor/Controller 196 NT Control System, Manufactured by Stock Equipment Co.
0110-045	17 pcs., Air Pressure Regulator (Air Set), Model 78-4 & 78-40 for Boiler and Turbine Field Instruments, Brand Masoneilan Co., Ltd.
0110-046	1 lot, Various consumable items for rehabilitation of generator, consisting of 25 items

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting **October 29, 2001** and may be secured from Administration Division during working days from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. upon payment of P25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P50.00 for TWO-ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price either in Cash, Manager's Check, Irrevocable LC, Bank Draft/ Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager
Professional Services Department

(PDI - Oct. 27, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the supply of:

I **Security Services for the Department of Labor and Employment Central Office for the period January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002**
II **Janitorial Services for the Department of Labor and Employment Central Office for the period January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002**

Interested bidders may secure application for eligibility forms with the checklist of eligibility documents from the Property Division, Administrative Service, Second Floor, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila. Application for eligibility together with the eligibility documents shall be submitted to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) in a sealed envelope marked with the title of the item/project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters addressed to the BAC on **November 13, 2001** for Security Services and on **November 16, 2001** for Janitorial Services not later than **2:00 PM** at the Administrative Service Conference Room, Second Floor, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila, during which the same shall be publicly opened. The interested bidders therefore are invited to witness the opening of eligibility documents. Late submission shall not be accepted.

Only eligible bidders are allowed to attend the pre-bid conference on **November 23, 2001** at **10:00 AM** for Security Services and at **2:00 PM** for Janitorial Services at the same venue. Attendance during the pre-bid conference is a must and an absent bidder shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate in the bidding.

The approved budget for Security Services is **SEVEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT PESOS AND 68/ 100 ONLY (Php 7,428,388.68)** and for Janitorial Services is **THREE MILLION NINE HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO PESOS AND 80/100 ONLY (Php 3,928,462.80).**

The PUBLIC BIDDING is on **December 6, 2001** at **10:00 AM** for Security Services and at **2:00 PM** for Janitorial Services at the same venue which is the deadline for the submission of bids. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals on the date of the bidding. The Department of Labor and Employment reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information please call telephone numbers 527-3480 and 527-3583.

(Sgd.) **BENEDICTO ERNESTO R. BITONIO, JR.**
Assistant Secretary
Chairman, DOLE Procurement Committee

October 25, 2001

(PDI -- Oct. 27 & 28, 2001)

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OBITUARIES

But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead; will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. — Romans 6:8-10

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF

BRIG. GEN. BENJAMIN R. VALLEJO, AFP (Ret.)

On the 10th anniversary of his death on the 1st of November 2001

General Vallejo was Commanding General of the Metropolitan Citizens Military Training Command (MCMTC). Commandant of Cadets, University of the Philippines, National Commander of the UP Vanguard Inc.; President of the PEFTOK Veterans Association, Inc., President of the Manila West Lions Club, President of the Rotary Club of Diliman and Father of the Rainbow.

Holy Mass will be offered at the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP Diliman, Santa Maria della Strada, Katipunan Rd., Mt. Carmel Parish Church, Project 6, Quezon City; Nuestra Señora de Guia Chapel, Ulilang Kawayan, Pasig; Pasig Catholic Church and at the Ateneo de Manila University.

On Sunday, 28th of October, Rainbow Batch Caralal '82 will offer flowers and prayers at the gravesite at the Libingan ng mga Bayani at 1:00 p.m. followed with a Mass and reunion of the Rainbow at the Makati Park Garden Artist Pavilion, Makati City. Everybody is invited.

His loving wife **Rosa**; children **Rossana, Elizabeth, Arminda, Benjamin Jr.**; sons-in-law **Grin, Alex, Mon**; grandchildren **Rina, Jason, Jacqueline, Jerome, Jessica**; brother **Dr. Pedro B. Vallejo** and family invite relatives, friends and others whose lives he has touched, to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Card of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Rita "Nena" Velez Syyap

would like to express our sincere appreciation to all who condoled with us during our time of bereavement.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

POLICARPO S. LUIS, SR.

who joined his Creator on October 15, 2001

wish to convey our deepest and most sincere gratitude to all who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and notes of sympathy, extended support, visited and kept vigil, attended the Masses and funeral rites and who, in countless ways, comforted us in the moments of our deep sorrow.

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Dr. Benjamin N. San Buenaventura
(Dr. Ben)
who joined his Creator on October 13, 2001

wish to convey our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and notes of sympathy, extended support, visited and kept vigil, attended the Masses and funeral rites and who, in countless ways, condoled, helped, and comforted us in the hour of our deepest sorrow.

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"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

People, Events & Products

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New Casio Pocket Viewer for the travelling executive

NOW Casio brings the PDA to an even higher level of efficiency, with the launching of its newest models, PV-S460 and PV-S660. The leading edge? The Travel Phrase Guide, which makes Casio Pocket Viewer a must for the executive who's always on the go. To another city within the country. Or to a destination halfway around the globe.

Casio PV-S460 and PV-S660's Travel Phrase Guide is a feature which enables you to translate the most common phrases into six of the world's most common languages—English, Spanish, Italian, German, French and Japanese—making it a perfect traveling companion. Other features are: slim and stylish design, Pocket Sheet Sync for Microsoft Excel 95/97/2000, PV applications, PC-Sync, Synchronization with Microsoft Outlook 97/98/2000, PIM functions, Quick Data Copy, Action Control Operation, Backlit Display and Multi-lingual Messages. PV-S460 has four MB while PV-S660 has 6MB memory. Both models include Cable and Software CD.

Casio Pocket Viewer PV-S460 and PV-S660 are now available at al Western Marketing or Globatronics branches and in leading computer shops. For products inquiries, call Business Plus Marketing at 637-6422 or e-mail at casioedu@mozcom.com.

PAL'S TOP TRAVEL AGENT

Philippines Airlines EVP and assistant to the chair Henry So Uy (right) awards the Gold trophy to Myra dela Cruz (second from right), operations manager of TravelPros Inc. at the recently concluded PALAwards 2001 ceremonies held at the Ana Century Park Hotel, Manila. TravelPros, an Iata-accredited travel agency with branches at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City and SM Southmall in Las Piñas City, is this year's top agent of PAL domestic ticketing program and has consistently been the recipient of the Gold Award over the last five years. Also shown are (from left) Miguel Estrada, PAL OIC for Metro Manila-Luzon sales and Dave Lim, PAL's VP for sales.

Bewitching trade fair at Glorietta

A BEWITCHING celebration of fun and spells will fill the air around Ayala Center from Oct. 26-28 as Q: A New Age Festival enchants the grounds of Glorietta III Park. The event will be highlighted by a three-day trade fair of new age products and services and a Halloween costume contest for kids. The fair features fortune-telling activities through tarot reading, astrological signs and palm-reading by famous fortune tellers, henna tattooing, magic shows, and lectures on mysticism. Q: A New Age Festival is presented by Events-Media Marketing Inc., in cooperation with Ayala Center. This is also brought to you by Pepsi Cola, Woman Today Magazine, and DWKC 93.9, the official radio station.

JC SENATE GIVES SETTLEMENT HOUSE

The officers and members of the 2001 Metro Manila JC Senate, in line with their commitment to community service, recently donated a Spanish-type Children's Gazebo to The Settlement House located in President Quirino Avenue, Paco, Manila. The Settlement House extends temporal care to boys and girls 3 months to 6 years old who are abandoned or orphaned, abused or neglected, irrespective of creed and nationality. Guests during the Gazebo ribbon-cutting were, from left: JCI senator Eduardo J. de Guzman, president, Philippine JC Senate Foundation, Manila City Mayor Jose L. Atienza, Jr., Elenita O. Nolasco, president, Fundacion de Damas de Filipinas, Inc., JCI senator Roberto M. Laygo, vice president for Metro South, Metro Manila JC Senate and JCI senator Sergio O. Valenola, president, Metro Manila JC Senate.

Pfizer named best employer in the Philippines

AN ANNUAL survey conducted by the Asian Wall Street Journal in partnership with Hewitt Associates reveals that Pfizer Philippines is one of the best employers in Asia. The survey made during the second quarter of this year involved 355 companies and 92,000 employees in the Philippines, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

"Our formula for success is our people. Pfizer employees are guided by the Eight Core Values of performance, teamwork, leadership, innovation, respect for people, integrity, customer focus and community. This recognition will continue to inspire us in achieving our mission of helping people live healthier and more productive lives," said Gerry Bacarro, Pfizer country manager and president in the Philippines.

One of its major employee programs that reiterate Pfizer's commitment to its employee is the establishment of a business leadership program with the Asian Institute of Management. The program aims to strengthen the dedication and improve the competence of its workers. The program helps equip Pfizer employees, specifically middle managers with the latest knowledge and innovations on management, to cope with the growing demands of the business community. Recently, the first group of managers finished the 24-session program.

Pfizer is a global, research-based pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and manufactures innovative medicines for humans and animals. It is a union between Pfizer and Warner-Lambert, two companies that have defined excellence in healthcare. This year, Pfizer is investing $5 billion for research and development.

FOUNDATION'S NEW HEADQUARTERS

Trustees of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc., the main philanthropic arm of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies, lead the blessing and formal inauguration of the Foundation's new headquarters at the seventh floor of the Allied Bank Center in Makati City. Representing Dr. Lucio Tan in the ribbon-cutting ceremony is Tan Yan Kee trustee and treasurer Mariano Tanenglian (center), together with other Tan Yan Kee trustees (from left) former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa (partly hidden), Father Joaquin Bernas, SJ, and former prime minister Cesar Virata and Tan Hui Bin (second from right). Also witnessing the ceremony are FUSE president Salvador H. Escudero III (fourth from left) and Joy Virata, VP of Repertory Philippines (extreme right).

BITS & Clips

Tomica Club 2nd year bash

THE TOMICA Collector's Club, the organization of hobbyists and collectors of Tomica die-cast car models nationwide, will mark its second anniversary with a general assembly and program today, Oct. 27, at the Country Waffles Restaurant on Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan. Among the highlights of the event are the launching of the Tomica Cares program, the proclamation of winners of the logo and mascot making contests, and awarding of prizes to winners of the Tomica Evolution and Tomica Diorama contest. The anniversary bash brings together 1,500 club members composed of students, professionals and hobbyists.

Arellano HS '48 alumni induction

GRADUATES of 1948 of Arellano High School will hold a general membership meeting today, Oct. 27, 3 p.m. at the AHS campus on T. Alonzo Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila, wherein the newly elected officers for 2001-2002 will be inducted by former Representative Martin B. Isidro. Heading the list of inductees is former president of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Ben Pangilinan as president, together with Taling Javier (vice president), Ludy Espinosa-Tesalona (secretary), Letty Gimena (assistant secretary), Virgie Iligan-Hernandez (treasurer), Vic Serrano (auditor), Virgie Samson-Carifio (business manager), and Gonz Trinidad (PRO). For details, members may call Taling at 936-1869, Ludy at 801-9774, Letty at 749-5448, Virgie at 421-1564, and Narding de Guzman at 922-0243.

Free lectures on Buteyko breathing

VISITING practitioner of the Buteyko Method of Breathing Reconditioning Jac Vidgen will give free introductory lectures in Manila about this revolutionary technique which has already significantly assisted many Filipinos over the past years with conditions such as asthma, allergies, sleep and anxiety disorders, rhinitis, sinusitis, chronic bronchitis and even emphysema. Dr. K.P. Buteyko, a Russian respiratory specialist, devised this drug-free method which allows participants to retrain the involuntary breathing mechanism with a tailored and supervised program. Vidgen will give lectures today, Oct. 27 at the Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park at 11 a.m. and Ateneo de Manila at 4 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 28, at Earthlite Center (4th level, COD Department Store) at 11 a.m. and at Kinderhaus, 14 Sgt. Esguerra Avenue at 4 p.m. More info and workshop schedules can be found at www.buteykoasia.com or by e-mailing jacvid@attglobal.net or by calling Palou (929-9901) or Sonia (427-2172).

Muslim youth leaders convene

MUSLIM youth from as far as Sulu will come together in Manila for the National Muslim Youth Summit today and tomorrow, Oct. 27 and 28 at the Executive Hotel, Malate, Manila. The overall theme "Reliving the Commitment to the Bangsamoro will have six main themes for the workshops conducted on discrimination, human rights and justice, ARMM and Moro right to self determination, Philippine educational system, peace and the peace process and local governance. Keynote speaker will be Senator Robert Barbers. The resolutions will be submitted to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Senate and Congress. For more information, call Nurjayphah Bacaraman, and Norjan Tanandato at the National Youth Commission at 781-1671, at the office of Commissioner Pendatun Disimban.

Powermax exhibit at Galleria

PART of Sequtech's sales and marketing blitz is an ongoing Powermax exhibit held at the ground floor, fountain area of Robinson's Galleria until Sunday, Oct. 28. Powermax is the most advanced home security system manufactured by Visonic. The exhibit features product demos, promo activities, as well as showcases of new Visonic security products. For more information, call Sequtech Corp. at 845-3444.

Emergency care specialists set meet

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Emergency Care Physicians, Inc., in a bid to promote the growth of emergency medicine as a specialty in the country, will hold its 8th annual convention, today, Oct. 27 at the Pacific ballroom of the Pan Pacific Hotel, Manila. Authorities from the fields of surgery, toxicology, infectious disease, emergency medicine, disaster management and pre-hospital care will constitute a panel to discuss relevant issues on emergency medicine. Topics include "The Unseen Weapon" on chemical and biological warfare, on behavioral emergencies, and "The Approach to Abdominal Pain in the Emergency Department." The Society is headed by Dr. Moises B. Soncuya, Jr. The Philippine Society of Emergency Medical Technicians will also be holding its 3rd annual convention titled "A National Dilemma" at the same venue.

HUDCC housing tech fair last day

AS PART of the activities to celebrate the National Shelter Month this October, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), together with the Private Sector Consultative Council for Shelter (PCCS), the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) and the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Association (Creba), is holding the Housing and Technology Fair 2001 until today at the Manila Midtown Hotel in Pedro Gil, Manila. The fair aims to showcase the latest techniques and newest building systems being used in the housing industry.

Last Quarter Fashion at Robinsons

PRIME Diva, in cooperation with Listerine FreshBurst, Smint, Cinnabon and Surreala Cafe, present Last Quarter Fashion, a grand exhibition and showdown of the country's fast-rising labels. The fashion extravaganza directed by Raymond Villanueva features labels Bayo, Plains & Prints and Dickies. Last Quarter Fashion will be showcased at the Robinsons Place Manila from Oct. 25 to 27. Truefaith will enliven mallgoers during the event. Radio sponsors are Wave 89.9 and Magic DWTM 89.1.

Wolfgang in 'Loud & Xplicit'

DREAM Line Productions, a multimedia firm specializing in concerts and musical events, brings together Wolfgang, Sandwich, and GreyHoundz in "Loud & Xplicit" at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City for a pre-Halloween concert today, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Bang and bob your heads to songs like "Sanctified", "Weightless", "Shoulders of Cain", "Butterfly Carnival", "Pigface" and "Pull". Tickets are available at all Ticketworld (891-5610) outlets, National Bookstore, Robinsons Galleria and Ermita, Tower Records Makati and Alabang, or call Dream Line at 926-3444/925-5413.

Rotary medical mission launched

ROTARY District 3830 together with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Department of Health, Barangay Palanan, and St. Joseph the Worker Parish will undertake a massive medical and dental mission today, Oct. 27 at the Palanan Gymnasium in Makati. The mission will offer free medical and dental services, including medicines, to over 500 underprivileged families in Barangay Palanan, Makati. This will be the first of several medical and dental missions to be undertaken in other parts of Makati, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Taguig, Pateros and Palawan.

Ipra to hold PR seminar

IN LINE with its "PR for PR" program aimed at helping the public gain a better understanding and appreciation of what real, professional public relations is, the Philippine Chapter of the International Public Relations Association (Ipra) will hold a seminar for students today, Oct. 27. Titled "PR: a Vital and Challenging Profession", the seminar will be held at the reading room of the Filipinas Heritage Library, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue in Makati. The seminar will be conducted by Ipra members who are among the leading PR practitioners in the country. For more information, call Marion or Mara at 891-3396 or 891-3485.

'Tugtugan, sayawan' in Pampanga

SAN MIGUEL renews its commitment and participation in an ongoing series of events and activities in Angeles City, culminating with the traditional Tigtigan Terakan Keng Dalan (Tugtugan Sayawan sa Daan) today, Oct. 27 in nearby Balibago, Pampanga. Tigtigan is a regular highlight of Fiestang Kuliat, a month-long celebration of the city's twin fiesta rites, La Naval (second Sunday of October) and Feast of the Holy Sepulcher (last Friday of October). Kuliat is the former name of Angeles City.

F.O.B. Manila opens

ALL roads lead to Makati Sports Club today, Oct. 27 as Menchie Mabanta opens F.O.B. Manila: A Holiday Treat I. The event is the first of Mabanta's "Six Superb Shopping Saturdays" which ends on Dec. 1. F.O.B. Manila I accepts major credit cards and offers shoppers the convenience of a package counter. There will be hourly raffle draws. Clothes, Christmas and home décor, novelty items and food are only some of the exciting items available at the bazaar which opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m. Those interested in purchasing season tickets to all six events may get them at 50-percent discount. For more information, call 671-2493, 671-2497, and 0917-5215738.

True Value pre-Christmas sale

TRUE Value, the country's premier home center, will hold its biggest pre-Christmas sale ever from Oct. 28-31 on its stores at Rockwell Center, Edsa Shangri-la, Alabang Town Center, Park Square Makati and Ayala Center Cebu. Dubbed "The Season's Bright Bargains," the sale features 20 to 50-percent markdowns on items from the participating stores hardware, houseware, automotive and garden sections. True Value, with 6,000 stores in 40 countries worldwide, offers a broad and diversified range of merchandise for home improvement needs like plumbing, painting, gardening supplies, bed and bath materials, appliances, and power tools.

Awareness a potent tool vs breast cancer

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

IT'S becoming evident that where women have access to education about their own health and where there is more effective detection and treatment programs, breast cancer becomes a survivable disease.

Even though the world is waking up to the realization that cases of breast cancer are steadily increasing (worldwide rates have increased by 26 percent since 1980), mortality rates in some countries are declining. In fact, the countries with the highest number of new cases annually have seen significant declines in mortality rates, according to a study conducted at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in the 1990s. These are the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Sadly this trend in mortality is not evident in the Philippines which in 1998 still ranks ninth in the world and first in Asia with 9,000 cases. "But this (figure) was clearly way off the mark and with no new data, we can just infer how many Filipino women today have this disease," reports Dr. Diana Cua, a breast surgeon and oncologist at the Makati Medical Center.

Despite the growing number of Filipino women developing this disease, Dr. Cua laments that a lot of them are not undergoing mammography screening which they should take once a year. One factor is the cost of examination and another is the availability. "The facilities are offered mostly by private hospitals and the process is considered painful by many patients," observes Dr. Cua.

To date, the best and perhaps, the only way to detect the presence of the cancer is through mammography. "No one knows yet the exact cause of breast cancer. I've seen it strike on women who are vegetarian, slim women, women with several kids, women without kids. Even young women are not spared. So it's very important for them to have their breasts examined by competent doctors," explains Dr. Cua.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Proven method

For now, early detection is the key in fighting breast cancer. Self-examination is no longer reliable since some lumps may be too small to be perceptible. A mammogram can spot presence of breast cancer 2 to 3 years before it becomes noticeable during a finger examination. This special type of imaging machine uses low-dose X-ray, high-contrast/high-resolution film and an X-ray system to create detailed images of the breast.

The use of mammography increases the detection of small abnormal tissue growths confined to the milk ducts in the breast. These early tumors cannot harm patients if they are removed at this stage and mammography is the only proven method to reliably detect these tumors.

Another useful procedure to go with mammography is breast ultrasound, also known as sonography or ultrasonography. It is frequently used to evaluate breast abnormalities that are found with screening or diagnostic mammography or during clinical breast exam.

Ultrasound allows significant freedom in obtaining images of the breast from almost any orientation. It is excellent at imaging cysts (round, fluid-filled, pockets inside the breast). Also, ultrasound can often quickly determine if a suspicious area is in fact a cyst which is always noncancerous or a dense mass which may require a biopsy to determine if it is malignant (cancerous).

If a patient's ultrasound and mammogram results are both negative (no evidence of cancer is seen) but the physician is still concerned about thickening or mass in the breast, the patient then may proceed further with needle aspiration biopsy. A cell or tissue is taken as sample, then studied and if found to be malignant, the doctor will then determine what course of action should be taken next.

Studies show that regular mammography screening of women between the ages of 50 and 69 reduces breast cancer mortality by approximately 30 percent in this age group, according to the National Breast Cancer Coalition.

Treating tumor

Dr. Cua suggests two approaches—surgery and radiation therapy (for the breast) and chemotherapy for the rest of the vital organs. In surgery there is mastectomy or the removal of the entire breast while the other is breast-conserving surgery, otherwise known as lumpectomy that involves the removal only of the cyst, followed by radiation therapy. This method leaves the rest of the breast intact.

The doctor believes that all these options should be discussed with the patient—whether to undergo mastectomy or lumpectomy. "This is important since I've seen women with marble-sized cancer come to me with their breast already gone. The way it was presented to them, they felt that the only way they were going to be saved was through mastectomy which in most cases is not true," says Dr. Cua.

Seeing the need to reeducate patients and medical practitioners alike, Dr. Cua launched a support group of breast cancer survivors who dedicated themselves to increasing breast cancer awareness and reduce the risk of the disease though early detection. Since January 1999, the group has helped 80 women through lectures on nutrition, alternative healing, sexuality and other relevant topics.

In fact, the same group, which chose the name Bosom Buddies, launched a successful conference on breast cancer last year by inviting cancer experts from abroad. This year, Bosom Buddies is raising funds for indigent breast cancer patients through auction, which will be held tomorrow at the Manila Yacht Club.

"This month is devoted to breast cancer awareness and we hope the level of awareness among Filipino women increase even more," says Dr. Cua. "There are also other organizations doing similar works and hopefully more media outfits will do their share in informing the public."

Other things you should know

- Excluding skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women according to the American Cancer Society. "(But) nobody dies of breast cancer from the breast," informs Dr. Cua. "People die of breast cancer because the cancer escaped and lodged itself in the lungs, the liver or in the other organs. People die of breast cancer because their lungs fail or their liver fails."
- But since cancer is usually named after the part of the body where it first develops, a cancer originating from the breast tissue is still called a breast cancer even if it spreads in the lungs (which causes death).
- Cancer is a group of diseases that occur when cells become abnormal and divide without control. Each organ in the body is made up of various kinds of cells. These cells normally divide in an orderly way to produce more cells only when they are needed. If cells divide when new cells are not needed, they form too much tissue. This extra tissue, called a tumor, can be benign or malignant.
- Eighty percent of all breast tumors are benign, according to the US National Cancer Institute, and we should remember that benign tumors are not cancerous. They can usually be removed, and in most cases, they don't come back. Most important, the cells in benign tumors do not invade other tissues and do not spread to other parts of the body.
- Benign breast tumors are not life threatening. Malignant tumors are. These cancer cells grow and divide out of control, invading and damaging surrounding tissues and organs. Cancer cells can also break away from the original tumor and enter the bloodstream or lymphatic system. This is how breast cancer spreads and forms secondary tumors in other parts of the body. This spread of cancer is called metastasis.
- A women's lifetime breast cancer risk, according to the US National Cancer Institute, increases significantly by the age of 40 when risk is 1 in every 217. At 30, the risk is 1 in every 2,525. By age 50, the risk increases at 1 in every 50; by age 60, 1 in 24; by age 70, 1 in 14; and finally by age 80, 1 in 10.

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26/F Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City

*THIS TREATMENT IS FOR MEN ONLY

Reference: 1. Whiting Da, Howe den FL. Androgenetic Alopecia: Color atlas of differential diagnosis of hair loss. Cedar Grove, NJ: Cranfield Publishing, 1998: 18-23

The case of hereditary COPD

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, M.D,

MEDICAL FILES

SHEILA A., at 29, is a typical yuppie, eager to face the challenges the world has to offer...except that her health won't cooperate. She would be short of breathe even just after climbing a flight of stairs. Much as she would like to, she couldn't join her friends and officemates for their TGIF gimmicks since she would not like to spoil the whole group's fun just because she couldn't put up with their energy. She also felt like choking with the smoke inside the disco houses they frequent.

Sheila has never had a puff of cigarette in her life. This was why she could not understand her doctor's explanation when he diagnosed her to have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Her doctor at the National Kidney Institute, Dr. Renato Dantes, a well-respected lung specialist in the country, had to patiently explain to her what her disease was all about.

Genetic link

As far as Sheila knew, COPD is a smoker's disease; but she realized after hearing Dr. Dantes' explanation that it could also be in the genes. She was diagnosed after complaining of progressive shortness of breath with exertion and a prolonged cough with sticky yellowish green phlegm. Her sister also had similar symptoms. This led her to wonder, could COPD be genetic and run in the family?

According to medical experts, there is some scientific evidence to suggest that COPD may also have a hereditary or familial factor. There is no question that smoking (including secondhand smoke) and air pollution are the most common triggering factors but some individuals seem to be more predisposed than others in developing COPD. The genetic link is therefore strongly considered.

Some medical investigators hypothesize that the genetic factor may make one's airways more hyperreactive and sensitive to bronchial irritants such as smoking and pollution. This may explain why some smokers develop COPD early, while some develop it late; and why some develop a more severe form of COPD than others.

The human genome project, which is currently underway abroad, should be able to identify the genes that may be responsible for the predisposition to COPD. This genetic predisposition may be identified even in newly born, or even unborn babies, so the necessary preventive interventions can be planned way before the individual develops the actual disease.

Unknown to many

In the Phillppines, COPD is still a disease unknown to many. An alarming fact is that according to recent statistics, COPD has become the seventh leading cause of death in our country. While more people are still unfamiliar about this disease, more and more are dying because of it. And smoking may not be the only cause.

In a small fraction of patients suffering from COPD, to which Sheila probably belongs, a form of COPD that is predominantly emphysema can be genetically attributed to an inherited enzyme deficiency. Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (A1AD) is an inheritable disease, which can cause early forms of COPD. As the name implies, A1AD is caused by an inherited lack of protein called alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT) which protects the lungs from a natural enzyme called neutrophil elastase. AAT also cleans up dead lung tissues and fights bacteria.

Although A1AD is a much less common factor causing COPD than cigarette smoking and environmental tobacco smoke, it should also cause concern because A1AD is one of the most common serious hereditary disorders, which has been identified in virtually all populations. In the United States, A1AD is a leading genetic killer of adults and a major reason for lung transplants.

Progressive obstruction

COPD is the most common clinical manifestation of A1AD. It is characterized by progressive obstruction of the airways leading to irreversible lung damage. COPD may present clinically as either of, or as combination of two types: chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Patients with COPD usually experience shortness of breath or dyspnea, wheezing, prolonged coughing with phlegm especially in the morning, frequent chest colds and respiratory tract infections.

COPD caused by A1AD is also called "early onset emphysema" because it can appear when a person is as young as 30-40 years old. Aside from this, the following are other symptoms that can indicate A1AD:

- Chronic bronchitis with airflow obstruction in a nonsmoker.
- Bronchiectasis characterized by copious expectoration of phlegm—sometimes blood-tinged, and the absence of clear risk factors for the disease.
- Premature onset of COPD, with moderate or severe impairment by or before age 50.
- COPD which is predominantly emphysema.
- Development of refractory asthma, especially in a person under age 50.
- A family history of alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency or COPD onset before age 50.

Lifestyle modification

If you are experiencing any one of these symptoms, a test should prove essential in order to verify the A1AD and its extent. Once diagnosed with A1AD, necessary changes in lifestyle should be made to help the body stay healthy. A1AD patients can protect themselves through proper nutrition, exercise and stress management and, most importantly, by not smoking. In many cases, these healthy practices can help delay the symptoms for many years.

"Thou shalt never smoke!" is the first commandment for individuals with A1AD. If you do smoke, COPD should be more than enough reason to quit. Evidence shows that smoking tobacco products significantly increases the risk and severity of emphysema in A1AD individuals (even in those without A1AD) and may decrease their life span by as much as 10 years or more.

Studies show that smoking destroys the already inadequate amount of AAT in the lungs of A1AD individuals. It attracts damaging enzymes to the lungs, thus speeding the development of lung disease. With A1AD, the lungs do not have the normal defenses against these harmful enzymes.

Trigger other risk factors

A study by Dr. Edwin Silverman, professor at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, suggests that cigarette smoking may also trigger other genetic risk factors for COPD. There are likely to be other enzyme systems other than AAT that may be involved in the predisposition to COPD.

Aside from smoking cessation, A1AD patients should also avoid occupational and environmental pollutants that can be inhaled such as pollen, dust and secondhand tobacco smoke. These substances can cause irritation to the lungs that may cause or worsen lung problems. Air pollution and aerosolized sprays should also be avoided at all times.

Since A1AD individuals are more susceptible to bacterial and viral infections, which are both harmful to the lungs, they should try to avoid contact with patients who have infections. Hand washing with an antibacterial soap or using hand sanitizers is the most effective way to avoid both contracting and spreading infectious diseases.

Aside from lifestyle modification, there are now available treatments for A1AD individuals with COPD. One of these is the AAT replacement therapy, which has been approved since 1987. Replacement therapy, also called augmentation therapy, raises the level of AAT in the blood and provides the lungs with a protective shield against the destructive enzyme, neutrophil elastase. However, AAT replacement therapy is only recommended for individuals with A1AD and not with individuals who developed COPD as a result of cigarette smoking or other environmental factors.

Test for A1AD

The World Health Organization recommends that all individuals with COPD, as well as adults and adolescents with asthma be tested for A1AD. Fortunately, A1AD can be easily diagnosed through a blood test available in some modern centers abroad. The test can diagnose A1AD by measuring the amount of alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT) in the blood. It can tell whether the patient is a carrier, which has one normal AAT gene and one altered AAT gene, or has a severe deficiency of AAT.

Remember that prevention is always better than cure. Even if having A1AD is not really a matter of choice, preventive measures can at least delay the symptoms of COPD. For those with A1AD indications, increased awareness about COPD is the key to make the necessary prevention that can save their lives. Nonsmokers should also beware because as it is, COPD is more than just a smoker's disease.

Sheila is doing well in her job despite her health handicap, one big reason everyone in her company admires her and looks up to her as a model. She always tells other people with health handicaps, "One may not be able to choose one,' s genes; but one can surely choose one's attitude in life."

Drug prevents mother-to-child HIV transmission

FOR A PREGNANT mother with the human immune-deficiency virus (HIV), the fear of transmitting the virus to her unborn child can be very unbearable. This fear should now be abated.

A breakthrough drug that can prevent the mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of the HIV is now locally available. Nevirapine, a potent anti-HIV drug marketed under the brand name Viramune by Boehringer-Ingelheim, has been shown to be a well-tolerated, effective and affordable option in reducing the incidence of MTCT of HIV. It can help fill a critical need in developing countries like the Philippines where the United Nations Acquired Immune-deficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) Agency estimates that approximately 1,800 HIV-infected babies are born every day.

"Nevirapine, which has been studied in women in Uganda and South Africa, holds great promise for reducing MTCT in the developing world because it represents a short and simple regimen, which can be easily administered in a resource-poor environment," said Dr. Brooks Jackson, consultant at the Johns Hopkins University and principal investigator of nevirapine.

Simple regimen

The study conducted in Uganda showed that a simple regimen—one oral dose of nevirapine (viramune) given to HIV-infected women in labor and another to their newborn babies within three days of birth—was effective in reducing MTCT.

The Lancet, a prestigious international medical journal, has reported that nevirapine is a most cost-effective, efficacious and easily administered drug available at present for the prevention of MTCT and gives hope for a new generation to be born HIV-free. A recent article in the same journal presents hope for reducing newborn HIV infections in developing countries. Findings indicated that anti-viral intervention with drugs like nevirapine could have a significant impact on the prevention of MTCT.

Researchers have been investigating nevirapine since 1997 for this important use. The outcome of these investigations encouraged the World Health Organization to place nevirapine on its "Model List of Essential Drugs for MTCT" in December 1999.

Incurable disease

AIDS is an incurable disease of the immune system characterized by life-threatening diseases including candidiasis, pneumonia, herpes and tuberculosis. The syndrome is caused by the HIV that can be transmitted through body fluids, notably blood and semen, through sexual contact, sharing of contaminated needles and transfusion of infected blood.

Globally, MTCT during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding is a second major mode of spread of HIV. Studies on perinatal transmission of HIV indicate that developing countries like the Philippines are more likely to transmit AIDS through this mode of transmission.

One factor that may play a role in this higher risk of infection for the Philippines is breastfeeding, which is much more common here than in the industrialized world. Studies showed that the risk of transmission through breastfeeding might be as high as 50 percent when the mother becomes infected during late pregnancy or after delivery.

The likelihood that an HIV-positive mother will give birth to an infected child ranges from less than 5 percent to as much as 30 percent. Contributing to this broad range in transmission risk are several factors in the mother—stage of HIV disease, intake of anti-HIV medications; and effectiveness of these medications in suppressing viral replication.

New medications

The advancement in the medical community has created new medications for the control of HIV and has helped many HIV patients live healthier lives. It has allowed HIV-positive couples to contemplate the future with greater optimism and confidence and make long-term plans. With increasing frequency, these plans include the possibility of conceiving, bearing and raising children. A growing number of doctors are helping HIV-positive couples to have babies using potent medications that promise to reduce substantially the risk of transmitting HIV to their offsprings.

In its objective to prevent MTCT, Boehringer-Ingelheim International has launched the "Viramune MTCT Donation Program" where the anti-AIDS drug viramune is offered free of charge in all developing countries for a period of five years.

In the Philippines, Boehringer-Ingelheim has offered the Department of Health a discount of 70 percent for viramune tablets for the chronic therapy of (+) HIV patients. It has also offered free of charge viramune for the MTCT indication. The DOH has expressed positive response to this initiative, saying that it will enable them to put more HIV-positive patients on nevirapine.

A celebration of Filipino women

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

LAST Oct. 9, the Ten Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) graced Malacañang in a joyful yet poignant tribute to the Filipino woman. Led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, a remarkable woman herself, and TOWNS president, Mel Alonzo, the celebration featured a surprise number from the chorale, numbering more than a dozen, whose rendition of "Magkaisa" I was still humming a week later.

Every three years, the TOWNS Foundation honors a crop of Filipino women who have excelled in their fields in the service of our country. The 2001 awardees were: Ma. Victoria Abesamis for children's health; Clarita Aganon for agriculture and rural development; Grace Nono-Aves for indigenous music; Olivia Damasco for plant tissue culture; Bernadette Madrid for child protection; Ma. Antoinette Menez for marine ecology; Clarissa Ocampo for extraordinary public service; Leah Victoria Reyes for education for special children; Jessica Soho for broadcast media; and myself for education.

Here is what our batch, TOWNS 2001, would like to say:

"The problem with historians who ignored women's roles in human achievements is that they have forgotten that the existence of women is the world's insurance policy as much as it is men's." So asserts Bagong Pinay, a site for and by Filipino women.

This quote is remarkably prescient in today's world, where chaos, hatred and division reign—division among races, division among religions, division among genders. Amid the threats, defiance and desire for justice and/or revenge which make the headlines, it is easy to overlook once again the victims—women and children in war-torn and poverty-ridden countries who have no recourse except to hide or to flee.

Let me read a poem by Anasuya Sengupta, a college senior in New Delhi:

Too many women in too many countries speak the same language of silence.

My grandmother was always silent—always aggrieved—only her husband had the cosmic right (or so it was said) to speak and be heard.

They say it is different now (after all, I am always vocal and my grandmother thinks I talk too much).

But sometimes, I wonder.

When a woman gives her love, as most do generously—it is accepted.

When a woman shares her thoughts, as some women do, graciously—it is allowed.

When a woman fights for power, as all women would like to, quietly or loudly, it is questioned.

And yet, there must be freedom—if we are to speak.

And yes, there must be power—if we are to be heard.

And when we have both (freedom and power), let us not be misunderstood.

We seek only to give words to those who cannot speak (too many women in too many countries).

I seek only to forget the sorrows of my grandmother's silence.

The women of Afghanistan are relegated to the sidelines. Those who had once trained in the same professions we awardees tonight take pride in are forbidden to practice their craft. Thus, even as we stand before you with one of the highest honors a country can bestow upon its women, we express our empathy for and solidarity with them who have been suppressed for so long. How much talent, how much good, how much grace can these women give their own nations and the world!

All of us here tonight are more fortunate. By the whimsical destiny of birth, we have grown in a society which has provided opportunities for us to nurture our dreams, to nurture others, and ultimately—to nurture ourselves.

Matriarchal society

It has often been said that the Philippines is a matriarchal society. Witness our lady President—the most recent in a long line of women leaders—stretching from Gabriela Silang, Tandang Sora to Cory Aquino.

Though I am no astrologer or historian, I can guarantee that President Arroyo certainly won't be the last woman leader. Why? When we met for the first time, we remarked that when things get messed up (frequently by men), it is the women once more who have to do the tidying up and the rescuing. This is a role women have practiced since childhood—mothers clean the rooms after untidy husbands and sons, wives strive to put the budget right, working moms attempt 24-7 to balance the demands of the family, the workplace and the community.

The facts

The statistics certainly bear this out. (I am a math major, so bear with me here.) According to the National Statistics Office, the projected population for 2001 is 38.7 million women, 39.2 million men. Fifty-three (53) percent of the women are part of the labor force, compared to 84 percent of men. So far there are no surprises here. However, "the average household annual income by gender of the household head" was P135,400 for women, and just P121, 003 for men (at least for 1997). What's more, the percentage of "poor households headed by women" was 23 percent versus 39 percent for men!

As for education, the area closest to my heart (and I daresay, Ms Leah Victoria Reyes'), literacy rate and elementary enrolment rate among women and men had no significant differences, but 72 percent of women who started elementary school completed it, compared to 62 percent of men. Department of Education statistics for 1996-1997 also showed a 76 percent secondary completion rate for women versus 66 percent for men.

According to the Commission on Higher Education, the proportion of women college and post-college graduates was also higher than that of men. (Ms Olivia Damasco also states the tissue culture is "remarkably suited for women," who have the patience to delve into fine details. Ms Clarita Aganon, an agriculturist herself, will probably agree.)

Much as I am tempted to veer into lots of conclusions from all these, I would rather focus on the contention these data support the fact that a certain sector of Filipino women are fortunate enough to have the upbringing and education to pursue their calling—which include all of us here.

Indeed, the ubiquitous use of the word "*Ina*" underlines this fact. *Inang Kalikasan*—surely, agriculture and rural development, plant tissue culture, marine ecology show its vibrant facets. *Ina't Anak*—children's health, child protection, science and math education, and education for special children revolve around the ones women are instinctively drawn to. And what are indigenous music, investigative journalism, and extraordinary public service for except to serve *Inang Bayan*?

Women and magic

No wonder, as the adage has it: "Where there is a woman, there is magic."

But what about the half a million overseas workers, most of whom physically service the needs of other peoples? What about those who struggle daily to meet their family's basic wants? The phrase "unsung heroes" might be a cliché, but isn't there always some truth in every platitude? Indeed, none of us would be here tonight without our support systems which include unsung heroes. To paraphrase Dr. Bernadette Madrid and Dr. Antoinette Menez, they do the work behind the scenes, but we are here before you reaping the awards. Thus, our group shares these awards with all Filipino women, outstanding in their own right.

We would like to add a call for national integrity. Dr. Victoria Abesamis remarks that indeed, this issue has been on the forefront of many a social platform past and present. But now, there are glimpses of it at work. One of the awardees, Ms Clarissa Ocampo, has been a visible integral part of this challenge, and another, Ms Jessica Soho, has demonstrated courage time and again in her pursuit for truth. All of us in our own ways strive to answer the call. We stand behind respect for diversity, respect for one another and respect for ourselves. We affirm that the Philippines is indeed a great nation, worth serving and worth loving.

Self-knowledge

And as we take our place among the community of nations, we remain mindful of what Ms Grace Nono-Aves states: "While acknowledging the legacy of western education which has taught us how to read, write, count, speak English, hob-nob with the world, and much, much more, we would now also want to reclaim our lost memory and identity, so that we may truly be our own people, with full rights to self-determination. Only from self-knowledge can spring forth true pride in ourselves, for how can we be proud of something that we do not even know? Self-knowledge cannot be overestimated. It is no less than our gateway to freedom."

We thank the Supreme Being, for our lives, our loved ones, our opportunities and our gifts. We thank our mentors, for their inspiration, their perseverance and their wisdom. We thank our family and colleagues, men and women alike, whose journeys constantly parallel and intersect ours. We thank the TOWNS Foundation for recognizing our efforts, and for providing a venue for us to work together. TOWNS may not be many in number, but in the words of anthropologist Margaret Mead: "A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday and can be reached at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

Mothers warned of health risks even after delivery

A BABY'S safe delivery is no guarantee that the mother is already out of danger after delivery.

This warning was issued by the Department of Health (DOH), citing complications such as infections and other health problems that women could experience after delivery.

And such problems if left unattended, can be fatal, according to a statement from the Center for Family and Environmental Health.

Current incidence of maternal death states that there are at least 10 women dying every day due to pregnancy, labor and delivery or a maternal mortality ratio of 172 per 100,000 live births. The DOH launched the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project in 1995, a move aimed at reducing maternal morbidity and mortality by 50 percent.

Postnatal checkups

The CFEH further stated, "It is important that women seek the help of health professionals to have their health status assessed after delivery through postnatal checkups."

The DOH through its Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project built and upgraded some health centers in selected areas of the country that provide quality maternal health care services. Thus, women, especially those from remote areas, can avail of postnatal checkups at the barangay health stations (BHSs), rural health units (RHUs), lying-in clinics (LICs) and maternity waiting homes (MWHs).

There are 25 LICs and MWHs across the archipelago. These were built in selected places where the incidence of maternal deaths has been found to be relatively high because of geographic and economic reasons.

Hard to reach

The MWHs were built in areas that are considered hard to reach because of mountainous terrain, surrounding bodies of water, poor road network, or typhoon-prone location. Nonetheless, these MWHs are located in the compound of district and provincial hospitals.

On the other hand, the LICs are built adjacent to the RHUs in areas with sizeable population and large number of monthly deliveries.

At these facilities, women and their husbands can also attend health classes and read materials on maternal and baby care while getting instructions on breastfeeding and proper nutrition, including the needed immunizations and responsible parenthood.

HEALTHSCOPE

Wanted: 10 nursing scholars

THE SEARCH is on for the 10 new Pampers-MCNAP Aral-Alaga nursing scholars. The scholarship program —a joint effort of Procter & Gamble, the maker of Pampers, and the Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines—was established to uplift the standards of nursing education and the quality of maternal and child care in the country. Open to male and female sophomore student nurses who want to specialize in maternal or pediatric care, it provides each scholar with six semesters of free tuition and laboratory and book allowance. Application forms are available at the dean's or registrar's office of participating schools. Deadline for submission of all requirements to the MCNAP scholarship committee is Nov. 9. For inquiries, call up Milette or Maan at 814-2113 or Diana at 712-2005.

Eye Bank pays tribute to donors, their families

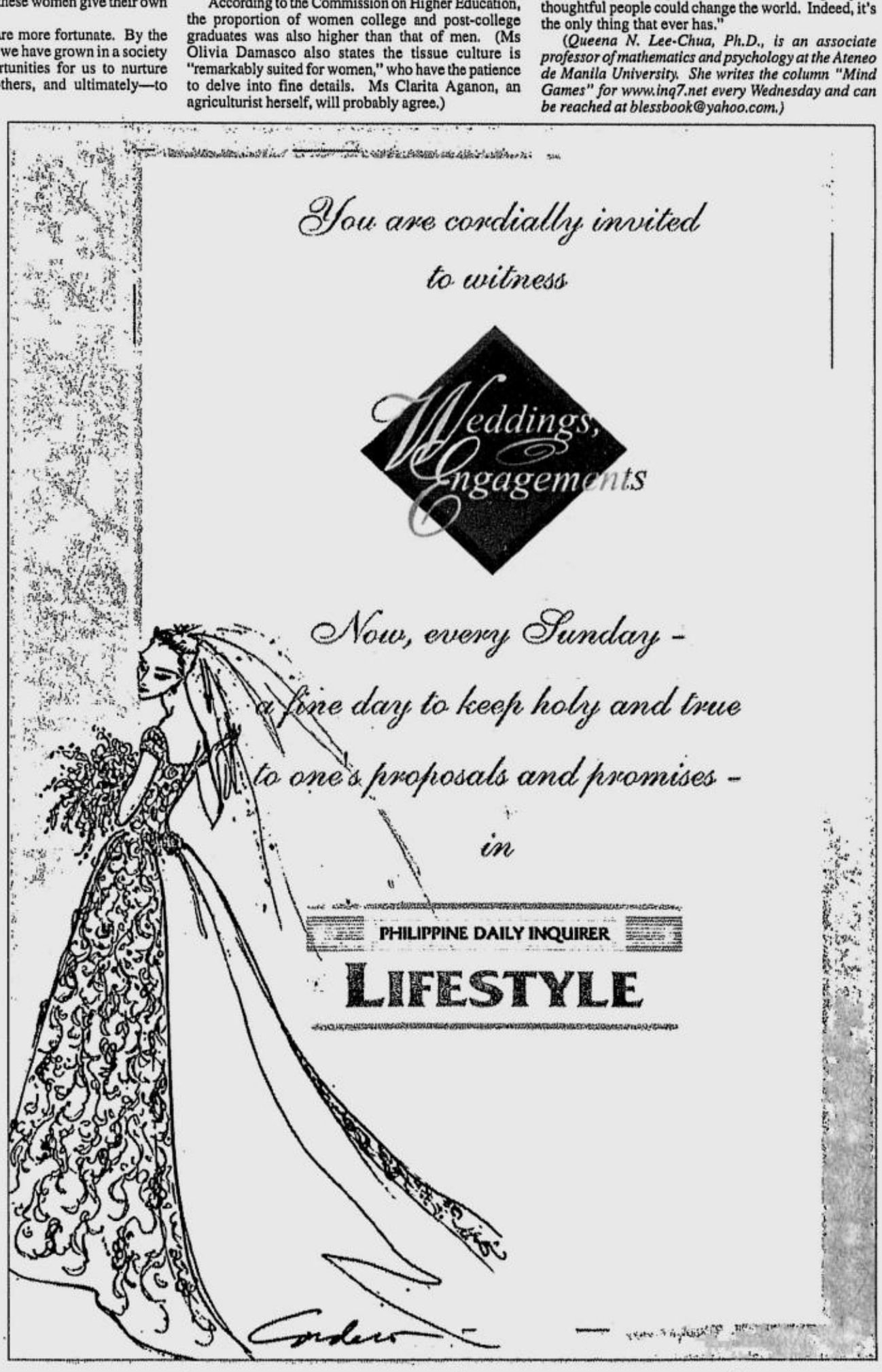
THE EYE Bank of the Philippines is holding the "Donor Family Recognition" ceremony at 9 a.m. today at the Luneta Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, Teodoro Valencia Circle, Rizal Park. The gathering not only will recognize the families that even in their sorrow selflessly shared the gift of sight with others but also enable the many cornea recipients to show gratitude to their donors. Dr. Dominga B. Padilla and medical director Jacinto Dy-Liacco will welcome the donor families and recipients while Chaplain David Turnbull, OFM, will give an inspirational message. The Eye Bank processes, procures, evaluates, stores and distributes corneal and scleral tissues for transplant throughout the country and to several worldwide destinations. Its charity programs and surgical fund have already benefited 42 poor patients.

Postgrad course, demo on esthetic surgery

THE PHILIPPINE Academy of Aesthetic Surgery will hold its 3rd postgraduate course and demonstration on Nov. 24-25 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City and at the Quezon City Medical Center. Paas president Dr. Porfirio P. Tica said the course has for its theme "The Art of Cosmetic Surgery." The topics include Nasal Implant Shaping and Breast Reduction; Rhinoplasty; Blepharoplasty; Lip Reduction; Chin Augmentation; and Modified S-Lift. Other topics are Mammary Augmentation; Skin Care; Botox Injection; Micropigmentation; Liposuction and Fat Transplant; Abdominoplasty; Autologus Fat Transplant; Sclerotherapy; Penile Enlargement and Enhancement; and Vaginoplasty. On Nov. 25, there will be a wet clinic demonstration by the Quezon City Medical Center on Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, Quezon City. For details, call up the PAAS secretariat at 687-2508.

Free lecture on Buteyko breathing technique

JAC Vidgen, an Australian-trained Buteyko practitioner, based in Bangkok and working in the Asian region, is here to give lectures and workshops on the Buteyko method of breathing reconditioning. Following are the schedules: Oct. 27—Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, 11 a.m. and Ateneo de Manila, 4 p.m.; Oct. 28—Earthlite Center (4/F COD Dept. Store), 11 a.m. and Kinderhaus, 14 Sgt. Esguerra Avenue., 4 p.m. Workshops are on Nov. 5, 6, 7, 12, 20 (Makati); Nov. 8, 9, 10, 13 ,21 (Cubao); Nov. 14, 15, 16, 22, 26 (Ateneo); Nov. 17, 18, 19, 23 ,27 (Kinderhaus).



SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Screening for babies saves lives

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

DON'T let healthy, good looks mislead you.

Baby A, with his red lips and fair skin, was born on Feb. 17, 1997 at the Philippine General Hospital. But a newborn screening test detected that Baby A was suffering from phenylketonuria, or PKU, a metabolic disorder where the body lacks the enzyme needed to process phenylalanine, an amino acid commonly found in proteins. If not treated early, Baby A could suffer from brain damage and mental retardation.

In 1998, doctors imposed a protein restriction on Baby A. He is now being given phenylalanine-free milk. His blood phenylalanine level is monitored every month.

Baby A is now living a normal life.

Baby D was born on July 18, 1996 at the Chinese General Hospital. The parents gave Baby D a boy's name, thinking he was a boy.

Ten days after Baby D's birth, the hospital was notified that the baby had a significantly elevated level of 17 Hydroxy-progesterone. This could mean that the infant has congenital adrenal hyperplasia. The condition was detected through newborn screening.

Baby D was admitted to the hospital before severe complications could develop. A chromosomal test revealed that Baby D was, in fact, a girl. Her clitoris was elongated and everyone mistook it for a penis.

Although Baby D has to take medications like fluorinef and hydrocortisone for life, she is now an active and talkative 2-year-old who loves to draw, eat and make friends. Her hormones are managed through regular visits to the endocrinologist. Corrective surgery is being considered to reduce the size of her clitoris. And of course, Baby D now has a girl's name.

NEWBORN screening can save babies from retardation, even death. ERIK ARAZAS

Newborn screening made it possible for Baby D to survive and live a normal life.

Baby V looked every inch a healthy infant when she was born on Sept. 7, 1997 at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City. But a few weeks after she was discharged from the hospital, Baby V's health started deteriorating.

She was losing weight, her skin was becoming dark, coarse and wrinkled, and her tongue was getting bigger and was protruding from her mouth. Her umbilicus did not dry out and fall off as expected. She was frequently sick—coughing, constipated and fussy. She was brought to the doctor several times for treatment.

In January 1998, Baby V's mother received a letter from the Philippine Newborn Screening Project. She rushed her baby to the newborn screening laboratory at the University of the Philippines in Manila. Coordinators there had been searching for Baby V for four months after tests revealed that she had congenital hypothyroidism. She was referred to an endocrinologist where she was prescribed hormone replacement therapy.

Baby V is now healthy.

Need for screening

Just like the three babies, any infant could look normal and healthy. But no one can be really sure unless detailed screening is done.

More than 1.5 million babies are born in the country every year. And for every baby born, the same question runs through every parent's mind: "Is my baby okay?"

There is a reassuring and definitive answer to this. And it lies in newborn screening.

All it takes is a needle prick in the baby's heel and a few drops of blood blotted on a special absorbent paper. This procedure, done by a trained health care professional, is available in 200 hospitals nationwide.

The samples are sent to the newborn screening laboratory of the Institute of Human Genetics at the National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines-Manila. It is the only newborn screening laboratory in the country.

Newborn screening aims to test infants for five potentially devastating and fatal metabolic disorders—congenital hypothyroidism (CH), congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), galactosemia (GAL), phenylketonuria (PKU) and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency (G6PD).

With the parents' consent, the procedure can be performed on the third day of life or even 24 hours after birth. But newborn screening experts say that some disorders are not detected if tests are done earlier than 24 hours. In this case, they stress, the baby must be screened again after two weeks for more accurate results.

Cost of screening

Two screening packages are offered. The screening for all five disorders costs P550, while screening for only two disorders costs P310. Newborn screening advocates recommend a complete test. The difference of P240 is a small price to pay for a lifetime of health, they say.

Test results, released to the attending physicians, are available within four to seven days after the newborn screening lab receives the samples sent by the hospitals. A negative result means the baby is not suffering from any of the disorders. A positive result means the baby needs more tests and a verification of exactly what disease he has.

Dr. Carmencita Padilla, who chaired the fourth Asia Pacific regional meeting of the International Society for Neonatal Screening held in Metro Manila last week, said the country needs six or seven labs if all the 1.5 million babies are to be screened properly.

Only 2 percent of babies

Padilla lamented that only 2 percent of babies in the Philippines undergo newborn screening, while Japan, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan and some parts of China already screen 90 to 99 percent of their babies. The United States screens about 95 to 99 percent of its babies. Recently, Thailand reported an impressive 84 percent newborn screening rate, up from last year's 60 percent.

In his keynote speech during the conference, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said he hoped the Department of Health could somehow integrate newborn screening into the government's existing health care delivery system without people having to pay for the procedure.

Padilla said it would be more difficult for the government to raise P200 million to pay for the screening of all newborns than for a family to save P500 during the mother's nine-month pregnancy.

Bradford Therell Jr., Ph.D., president of the International Society for Neonatal Screening, told the INQUIRER that it would be an uphill climb for a Philippine campaign for neonatal screening because 70 percent of babies are not born in hospitals. The real challenge is in the rural areas, he said.

"We have to think of the next generation," Padilla said. "There's nothing we can do about children (with disorders) now. But looking ahead, we can save babies from retardation."

5 disorders detected in newborn screening

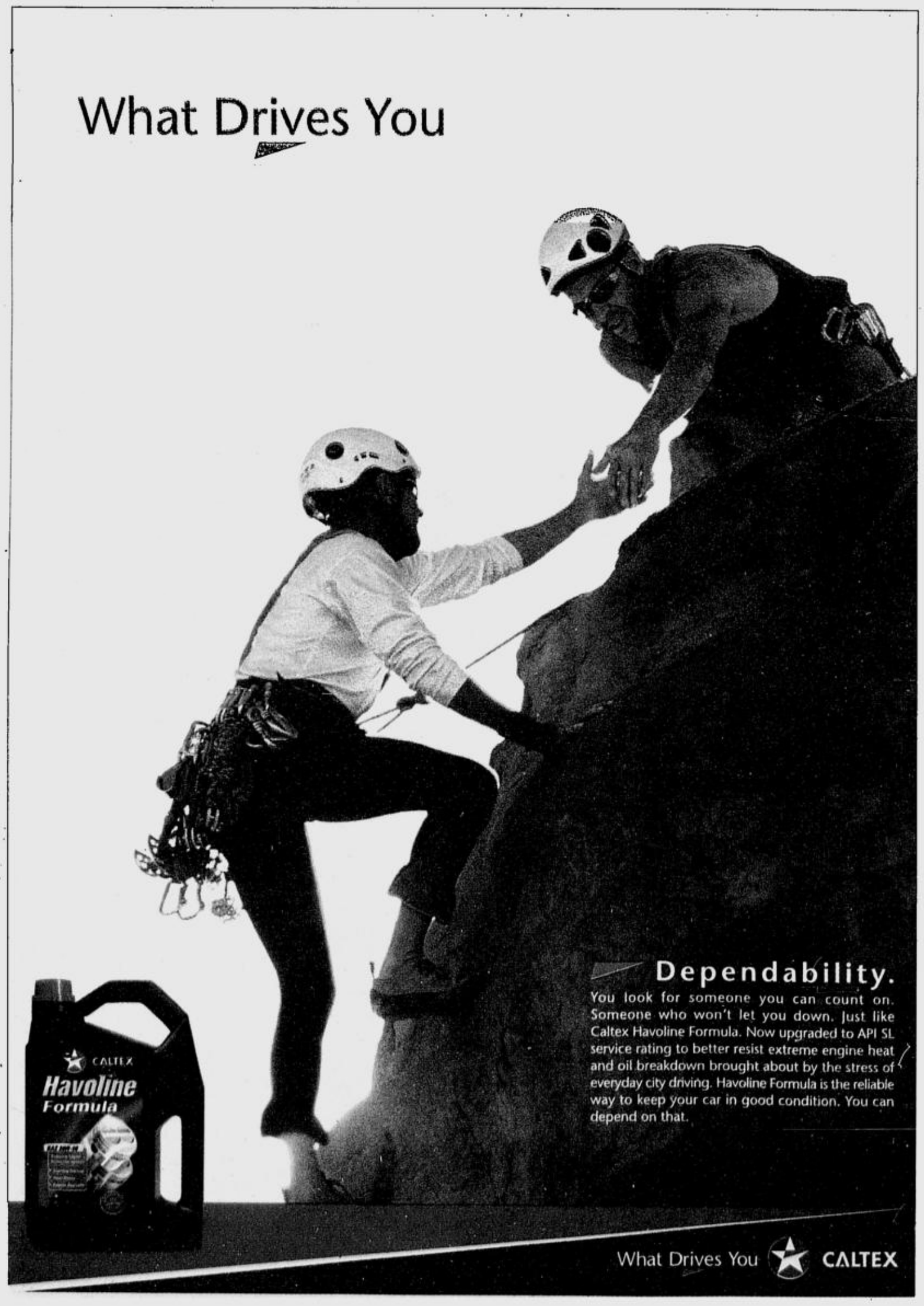
Congenital hypothyroidism (CH) results from a lack or absence of thyroid hormones which are essential to the growth of the brain and body. If the disorder is not detected and hormone treatment is not initiated promptly, the baby's physical growth is stunted and he may suffer from mental retardation. It affects 1 in 4,834 infants.

Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) causes severe salt loss, dehydration, and an abnormally high level of male sex hormones in boys and girls. If not detected and treated early, babies with CAH may die within 9 to 13 days. It affects 1 in 12,568 babies.

Galactosemia (GAL) is a condition in which babies are unable to process a certain part of milk sugar called galactose. The buildup of too much galactose in the body can cause many problems, including liver and brain damage. Affected babies are treated by putting them on a special diet.

Phenylketonuria (PKU) is a rare condition in which the baby cannot properly use one of the building blocks of protein called phenylalanine. It then accumulates in the blood and causes brain damage. Normal development is possible and retardation can be prevented if treatment is started early with a special diet.

Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency leads to anemia, yellow discoloration of the skin and other health problems if the patient is exposed to certain drugs, foods and chemicals. A baby with G6PD deficiency may develop complications leading to mental retardation, and in extreme cases, death.



CALTEX LAUNCHES NEW HAVOLINE

The "Art of listening" was the theme for the very successful launch of the new improved Caltex Havoline line of lubricants. Held at the NBC tent in the Bonifacio Global City, the event was attended by more than 500 guests composed of friends, dealers, distributors, supporters and motoring journalists.

Mr. Brian J. Drummond, Caltex General Manager for Lubricants, personally thanked everyone for making Havoline everything it is today – a leader in engine oils and a standard among brands.

The drama-filled show highlighted Havoline's development with a countdown showcasing the various milestones in Havoline's history, starting from the time when it was first introduced in 1904. After almost a century of listening, caring and helping, Havoline has been upgraded to meet consumer needs and wants.

The improved label and packaging design of the new line of Havoline Engine oils make it easier to distinguish one variant from the other. Havoline Fully Synthetic now comes in a silver bottle with a gold cap. Havoline Energy is in a blue bottle with a blue cap, and Havoline Formula is in the same black bottle and a red cap.

Havoline Formula

To complete the upgrade, Havoline Formula has moved up to API-SL quality rating, currently the highest API service rating available in the market. This quality improvement translates to higher oxidation stability, lower oil consumption, extended oil drain interval and higher sludge control. It is a highly shear-stable, multi-grade gasoline engine oil formulated from selected base fluids for use in passenger car and light truck engines requiring API-SL, SJ or SH performance lubricants under all operating conditions. It is optimized to provide complete engine protection against starting friction, heat stress and engine deposits. Finally, here's an engine oil specially made to protect your car from the stress brought about by city driving – an oil that will help keep your car reliable and dependable.

Havoline Energy

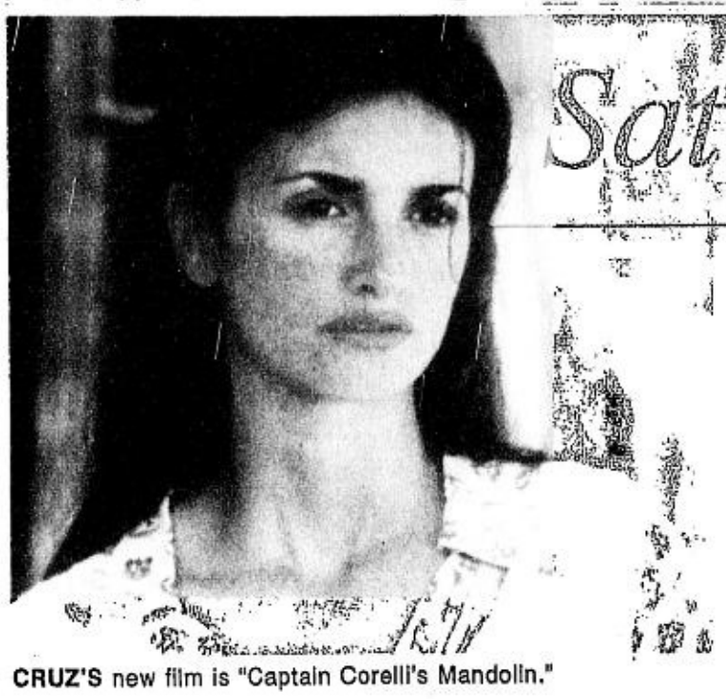
The superior quality Havoline Energy engine oil continues to give the benefit of fuel savings with maximum engine protection. It's for those who appreciate getting more than what they pay for. Havoline Energy is a revolutionary engine oil that protects your car so efficiently it actually extends your mileage so you get more kilometers per liter of gas you load. It is a premium performance, friction-modified, multi-grade motor oil formulated from a blend of selected ultra-high viscosity index mineral oils and unique additive technology for use in passenger car and light truck gasoline engines where oils of performance up to and including API-SJ, ILSAC GF-2 and ACEA-A1 are recommended.

Havoline Fully Synthetic

Havoline Fully Synthetic is simply the best Havoline there is, providing the best protection we can offer against engine wear and heat stress. It provides the ultimate engine protection for complete control of oil oxidation. Havoline Fully Synthetic is a premium performance, friction-modified, multi-grade motor oil formulated from selected synthetic base fluids and race-proven additive technology for use in passenger car and light truck gasoline engines and passenger car diesel engines under all operating conditions. It is optimized to provide complete engine protection with the lowest oil consumption, highest thermal stability and widest temperature performance.

To introduce the new line of Havoline engine oils to the southern market, similar launches were held in Cebu at the Marriott Hotel on September 11 and in Davao on September 14 at the Marco Polo Hotel.

As a follow up activity to the launch, Possum Bourne's Subaru Impreza WRX, the winner in the Asia Pacific Rally Championship 2000, will be on display at selected Caltex stations from September 19 to November 31, 2001.



CRUZ'S new film is "Captain Corelli's Mandolin."

SaturdaySPECIAL

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Penelope Cruz's appeal goes beyond beauty

BY DOTSON RADER

I WAS not born rich, and I am glad," said Penelope Cruz, a native of Madrid. "Because, if you are born wealthy, you have no one who will teach you that in most of the world it is not normal to have enough food to eat and a bed to sleep in. We are lucky. My family taught me these simple, important things." Penelope Cruz became the most famous European actress of her generation with her lead role in the 1992 sexually themed Spanish comedy "Jamon, Jamon."

Nomination

Her performance earned her a nomination for a Goya (the Spanish Oscar) as Best Actress. She was just 17 years old. Cruz then went on to star in nearly two dozen pictures, mostly European, such as "Belle Epoque" (1992) and "All About My Mother" both Oscar-winners as Best Foreign Film.

Increasingly, however, she has starred in American movies, among them "All Pretty Horses" (2000), opposite Matt Damon, and this year "Blow," with Johnny Depp. Cruz will be seen in "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," a wartime romance co-starring Nicolas Cage and Christian Bale. Next comes "Vanilla Sky" directed by Cameron Crowe, scheduled to be released later this year.

In the decade since her breakthrough, Cruz has discovered how to use her success to return to the world some of the good fortune she has earned. I met with her in Santa Monica to inquire about her life and to learn what makes her happy.

"My parents worked six days a week and taught us to be grateful for everything we had." said Cruz. Her mother, Encarna, a retired hairdresser, and father, Eduardo, an auto mechanic, both 48, live near Madrid. She has two siblings: Monica 24, a highly regarded flamenco dancer, and Eduardo Jr., 16, a student. Cruz remains very close to her family.

PENELOPE/p.C2

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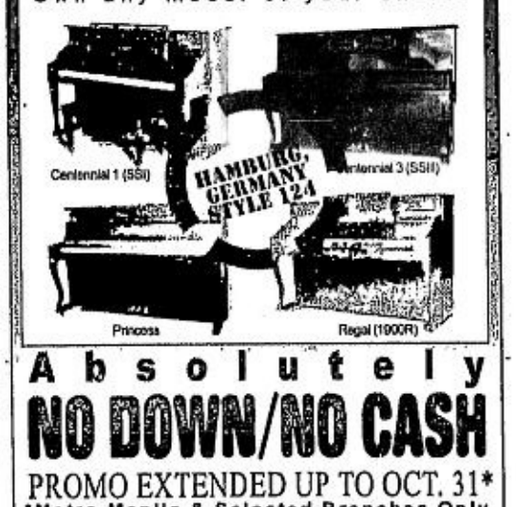

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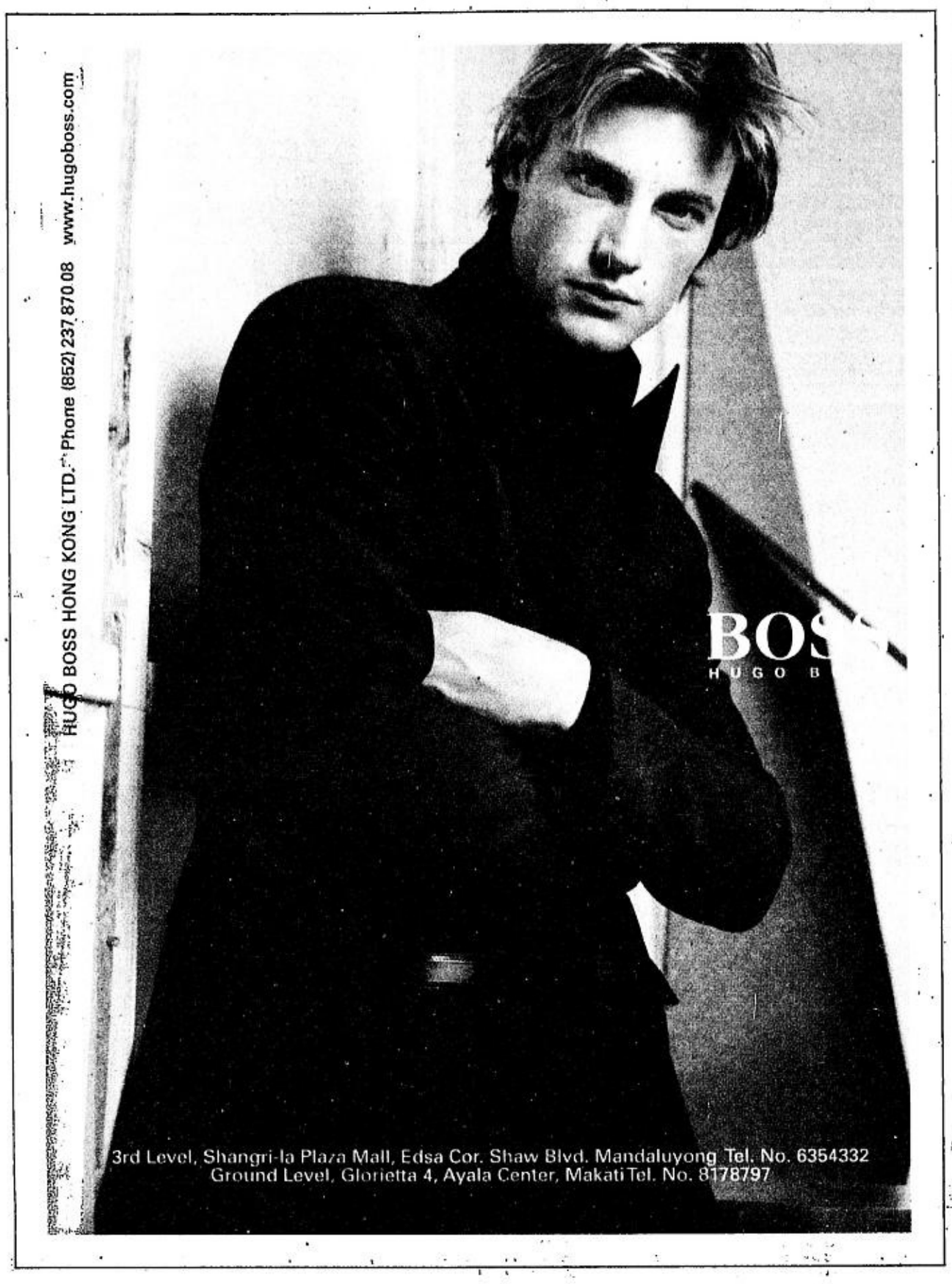
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3678, Series of 2001

'Millionaire' and 'Weakest Link' compared



BY NESTOR U. TORRE

IT'S taken "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire?" almost a year to become a huge hit on local TV, but it's now the game show to beat. Its success has prompted other TV stations to come up with big-prize game shows of their own.

Interestingly, the latest game show on the tube, "The Weakest Link," is produced by the same people who have made the local version of the "Millionaire" program such a big hit.

Popularity

Since "Weakest Link" often follows "Millionaire's" weeknight programming, the new program can be said to be benefiting from "Millionaire's" popularity.

The idea appears to be to keep viewers tuned to IBC-13 for two hours most weeknights to catch the back-to-back game shows—a coup that is giving the bigger networks some sleepless nights.

Adding to IBC-13's game-show package's appeal is the fact that the two shows are different from one another. As a result, viewers get variety on top of those big cash prizes.

"Millionaire" is by far the "kinder" game show. It gives contestants more time to answer the quiz questions, gifts them with three lifelines, and even gets the audience to help from time to time.

As for host Christopher de Leon, he's excessive kindness personified (to a fault), subliminally sending out danger signals when a contestant gives the wrong answer.

Sarcastic

On the other hand, "The Weakest Link's" Edu Manzano delights in being sarcastic and even "cruel" to his show's eight contestants. He keeps razzing them for not making enough money, for being inept at "banking" their winnings, and for not being swift enough to junk the "weakest links" among their number, whose wrong answers reduce their collective winnings.

This approach strikes some Filipinos viewers as harsh and unfeeling, but Edu is merely acting out a role, Darth Vader as a game-show host(!), specified by the program's British franchise owner.

Also "un-Filipino" is the show's penchant for pitting the eight contestants against each other instead of helping one another as, for example, "Family Feud" does.

In the "Weakest Link," only one person wins the entire pot that all of the contestants have worked so hard to build up, and everybody else goes home empty-handed.

Grim and hectic

Appearing on "The Weakest Link" may be exciting, but it's no fun at all, since its proceedings are conducted in such a grim, hectic manner. It's a test not just of encyclopedic knowledge of trivia but also of intestinal fortitude!

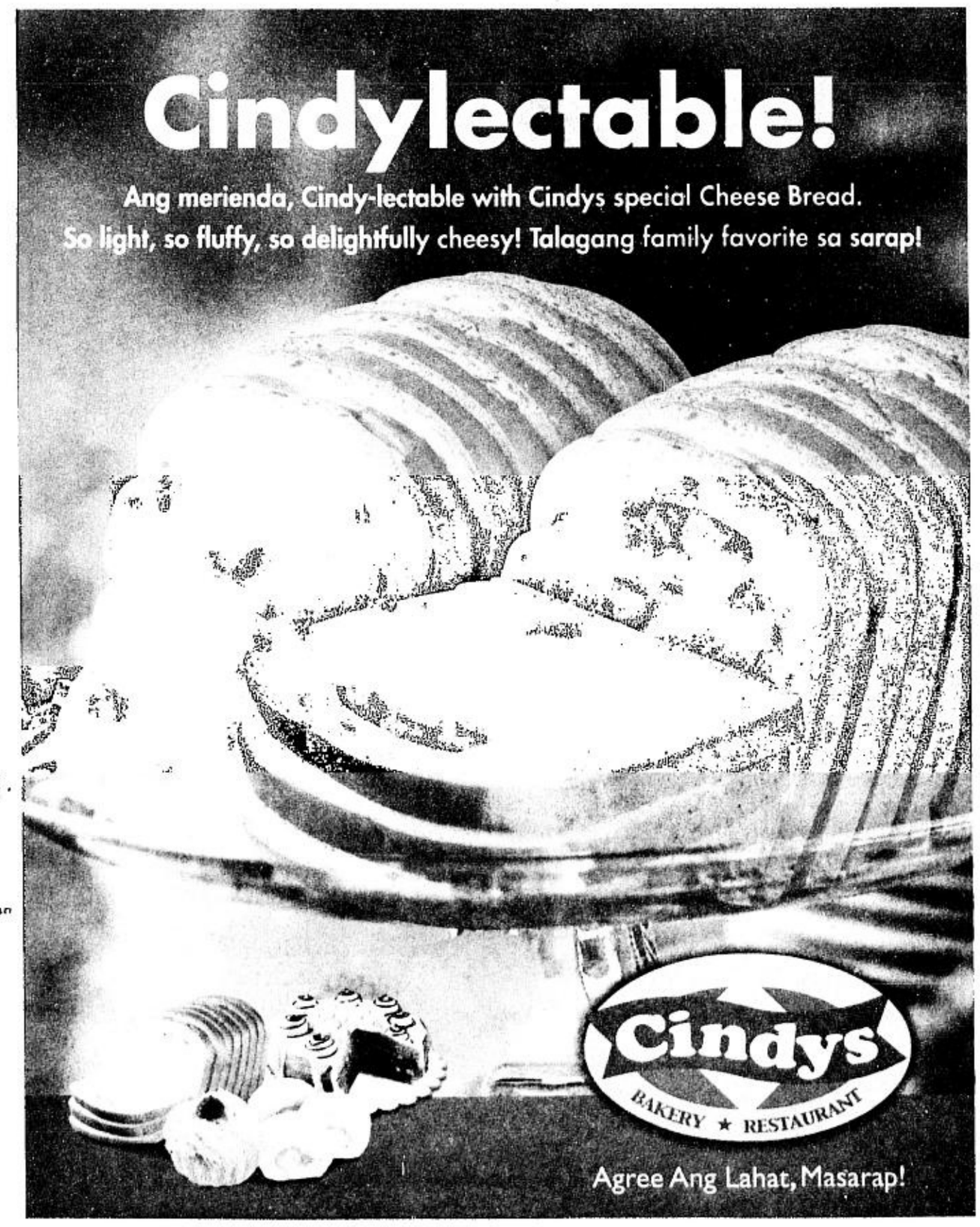
In this way, it forces its Filipino contestants to think and act like westerners, forgetting friendship, kinship and other cherished Asian ties, and thinking only of winning.

For this reason, it may not catch on here as easily as "Millionaire" has. We simply may not have the psychological predisposition to be a cold-bloodedly pragmatic as American or British game-show contestants can be when a lot of money is at stake.

On the other hand, the local producers of the show could know something we don't: that our so-called Asian values and ties are no longer as strong as we'd like to think they are—and that, when a lot of money is up for grabs, we can be as grabby and grubby as any westerner out there!

DE LEON. Excessive kindness personified.

MANZANO. Darth Vader as host.



Abra - Bangued • **Bataan** - Limay • **Benguet** - Baguio City (2) • **Bulacan** - Bulacan, Malolos **Ilocos Norte** - Batac , Laoag
Ilocos Sur - Candon, Narvacan, Vigan • **Isabela** - Allcia, Cauayan (2), Echague, Ilagan, San Mateo, Roxas, Santiago City (2)
Nueva Ecija Cabanatuan City • **Pampanga** - Angeles City, Apalit • **Pangasinan** - Alaminos, Mangaldan, Tayug, Urdaneta
Tarlac - Camiling, Tarlac City (6), Victoria • **Cagayan** - Tuguegarao City • **Zambales** - Olongapo City

Penelope . . . (From page C1)

"I had a lot of energy," she admitted in her soft Madrileña accent. "and I did not know how to channel it—until I started dancing." Her exasperated parents enrolled Penelope in dance classes at 4. "It was then that I learned the importance of self-discipline," she said.

"Like every dancer, I got used to my feet bleeding. Even when you bleed, you must keep dancing and smiling at the same time. That discipline later helped me work on movie sets 14 hours a day."

Classical ballet

Cruz studied classical ballet at Madrid's prestigious National Conservatory, intending to become a professional dancer. By 14, however, she had also become interested in acting. She was hired for a few commercials and auditioned for films. In time, the stress and overwork led to a physical breakdown.

"I was doing too many things at the same time," she explained. "From the time I was little, I have felt a need to share feelings, to communicate, to express emotions." She said. "And I was always fascinated by people's behavior. Acting is a way of investigating life by playing different people."

She paused, then added. "Also like many actresses, I admit there was a need to be liked and loved." She smiled. When Penelope Cruz smiles at you, it is radiant, like a benediction.

In person, she looks even more extravagantly attractive than she does on film. She is 5 feet 6, slender but shapely, with large, intelligent, darkly luminous eyes. She's unpretentious and self-possessed, with a bubbling laugh.

The intensity of her attention and childlike wonder is seductive. After you leave her, you want to be with her again. Cruz was only a teen when she auditioned for and won the part of the daughter of a small-town prostitute in "Jamon, Jamon." It was a role that would change her life.

"Before the movie, no one knew who I was," she recalled, "and after it, everyone in the street knew me. I love that movie, and I never regretted doing it. At the same time, it had some sexual connotations. I went in a different direction after that.

Stereotype

"Fearful of being stereotyped as a nymphet, Cruz cut her hair and refused explicitly sexual roles. "I hated the possibility of being typecast," she said. "The most difficult thing for me was to say 'no,' because I was desperate to work. People thought I was crazy, but I did it."

Over the next decade, Cruz played a wide variety of roles in European films, securing her stature as a serious actress. Through her US film debut in "The Hi-Lo Country" (1998) was a box office disappointment, Cruz won a Goya Best Actress a year later for "The Girl of Your Dreams," a Spanish production.

While her career has flourished, her two-year relationship with a Czech assistant director ended last year. "Every relationship ends," she observed, "until maybe you find one that lasts forever." (Rumors of romance with Tom Cruise, her "Vanilla Sky" co-star, surfaced recently, and Cruise's agent confirmed that the actors have had "a few dates" since Cruz attended his birthday party on July 6.)

In recent years, Cruz has earned a growing reputation as a photographer. In 1997, Barcelona's House of Tibet took notice of her talent and asked her to visit Nepal to report on Tibetan refugees. "I spent eight days taking pictures," she said. "What I saw made me value human freedom even more."

Mother Teresa

Her work was displayed in an exhibition in Spain opened by the Dalai Lama. Soon after a Spanish magazine asked her to visit Mother Teresa in Calcutta. What Cruz saw there would profoundly affect her and give her life new purpose.

"The first day, I was very nervous," she said, "because Mother Teresa was the person I most admired. That morning, everyone was sitting in rows on floor mats. And then I realized Mother Teresa was sitting in the last row with everyone else. She stood up. She looked each of us in the eyes and gave us a schedule. You go to the leprosy house. Then go to the babies' house. Then come back here. Everyone to work! She was doing work herself, 14 hours a day.

"It is difficult to talk about," Cruz added after a moment. "There you are with the dying, and the connection with them breaks your heart the most. I remember this little boy, a year old and blind. He'd feel it if you passed him by even if you made no noise, and he'd jump against his crib to have you touch him. When you held him, he would grip your neck and not want to be put back. That is not easy to see, but it must be seen.

Homeless children

"I felt more useful in Calcutta than I ever felt anywhere else before certainly more than on any movie set." Cruz has since returned to India twice and continues her involvement by supporting Spain's Sabera Foundation, which provides assistance for homeless children in Calcutta.

"I do not want to sound arrogant." said Cruz. "but I think the good thing about being a movie actress is if you can use it in the direction of helping people. If you are lucky enough to have money or influence, you are responsible to use it in a correct way, to do useful things.

"Without sharing, there is no happiness in life. Happiness comes from work and discipline and sharing, from using your time in a way that is good for you and for others. I've never been a girl who likes to party much. I am only an actress, and I don't pretend to be more than that or pretend I can change anything you do to help counts and I am only beginning.

Cranberries beam with positive energy

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

THE CRANBERRIES have a knack for probing songs, tight musical arrangements and melodic instincts. Staying away from the music scene for two years must have rekindled their enthusiasm because they're back with a new album, "Wake Up and Smell the Coffee."

Turbulent

Their previous songs in their last two albums were angst-filled and turbulent, but their new songs are peaceful without losing wit, sarcasm and intensity.

"Pretty Eyes" sounds like a haiku with a vintage feel. "Analyze" captures the struggle between the heart and head. "Dying Inside" describes the slow corruption of a soul. The whole album almost begs the listener to seize the day while cherishing every moment in life. Why did they soften their lyrics and sarcasm?

"This is the calmest we've ever been. We've proven ourselves by now, so we're really relaxed and really enjoyed ourselves in the studio. Working with our producer, Stephen Street gave us a sense of stability. Stephen would talk to me like I was one of his kids," Dolores O'Riordan (vocals, guitars, keyboards) grins.

"It was great to be with Stephen again. He really understands us and gets the best from all of us," drummer Fergal Lawler adds.

"There was a point last year when I finally saw the beauty (of life) I had been blind to for so long. Our new songs don't stress worrying about tomorrow, next week or next year, because there's so much beauty around," Dolores notes.

"A few songs in the album have different vibes from anything we've done before. It's nice to do different things, though it's not something we plan. It just happens naturally," Mike Hogan (bass) relates.

Debut album

The Cranberries released their debut album, "Everybody Else Is Doing It So Why Can't We" in 1992. Their second album, "No Need to Argue" sold 12 million copies on its first year of release because of their single, "Zombie."

Their third album, "To the Faithful Departed" in 1996, reaped additional platinum and gold awards because of their no-frills charm. Now, aside from being straight and on-target in terms of musical style, their songs brim with hope, compassion and everything that's positive Even their love songs "The Concept" and "I Really Hope" celebrate life instead of pain and sadness.

Dolores and Noel Hogan (guitars) feel that becoming parents for the second time with the birth of their daughter, Sophie changed their perspective in life.

"Having children makes you stop worrying about stupid things. Sophie's birth also brought us closer as a band. We're always asking things like, 'How's the teething coming along?'"

Packing teething rings for Sophie while they go on an extensive tour is a welcome responsibility.

Vibe

"To go out each night and play for our fans is fantastic. Fans everywhere can feel our vibe even if they don't understand the lyrics," Mike grins.

"It's been a long time since we released a song that's very optimistic. I guess, underneath all the things that you are going through, no matter where you are and what you are doing, you can always find happiness and perfection in your heart.

"You just have to know how to do it, how to get to that happiness. You have to appreciate the things that you take for granted, your lifestyle, your work. You have to believe that you are blessed," Dolores beams.

After 10 years and 33 million albums, the Cranberries show no trace of exhaustion and burnout. And they are not jaded at all. They simply shrug off the fame and success without being arrogant and snobbish. It seems that they appreciate life more *because* of their success.

CRANBERRIES. No trace of exhaustion after nine years in the music biz.

The Grande Dame gets a fashion makeover

IN CASE no one's noticed, the Ladies' Floor of Rustan's is sporting a new look. On its 50th year, the queen of department stores is transforming itself into *le magasin le plus chic* for *fashionistas* of all ages.

Gone is the 80's -style, compartmentalized floor plan. In its place, customers find spaces that intuitively lead to others. One good example is the way the contemporary clothing area seamlessly blends into the shoes-and-bags salon. That, in turn, flows into the accessories area, and soon, into new enticements like the café (opening first quarter of 2002) and the hair salon (November 2001). Rustan's proves that it knows—better than anyone does—what women shop for and how they go about it.

But the most revolutionary change isn't the thinking behind the floor's lay out; it's the clothes that hang from its racks. The new collections are noticeably younger and bolder, from contemporary American and European designers.

Names like BCBG, Cynthia Steffe, and Laundry bring a caffeine jolt to Rustan's offerings. Their extremely wearable designs are styled with European sophistication and laced with a distinctly American spirit.

Women who seek more refinement can find it in Bazar de Christian Lacroix, Diane von Furstenberg, ABS, Tessuto, and Mica. These collections are filled with playful prints, luxurious fabrics, and strong clean lines.

Of course, Rustan's realizes that even *fashionistas* have to kick back their stilettos and relax. That's why they've brought in the casual work clothes and weekend wear of Juicy Couture, Whistles, Easel, Allen by ABS, Spaghetti & Co., and Jill.

And for all the Carrie Bradshaws out there, Rustan's unveils a new collection of imported and local footwear from the likes of Fendi, Marc by Marc Jacobs, Nina Ricci, and BCBG (to name a few). There are strappy sandals, classic pumps, evening stilettos, boots, loafers, and every combination thereof. Naturally, they have the bags and other accessories to match.

A makeover on this grand scale isn't skin deep. From the top to toe, the changes reflect the new attitude of the Rustan's Ladies Division. Customers can feel it in the clothes. They can sense it in the intuitive space planning. They can see it in the insightful visual merchandising. They can read it in the stylish new ad campaign.

It's the year 2001, and Rustan's has never been more accessible, more assertive, more empowered, more creative, and more attuned to the New Woman. This grande dame is still the hottest babe in town.

Rustan's NEW COLLECTIONS

READY-TO-WEAR

- Bazar de Christian Lacroix
- BCBG
- Diane von Furstenberg
- Juicy Couture
- Whistles
- Cynthia Steffe
- Tahari
- Laundry
- ABS
- Tessuto
- Easel
- Allen by ABS
- Bisou Bisou
- Mica
- Caramelo
- Spaghetti & Co
- Jill

SHOES & BAGS

- Fendi
- Nina Ricci
- Di Sandro
- Beverly Feldman
- Magrit
- Barbara
- Coccinelle
- Francesco Biasia
- Marc by Marc Jacobs
- Rodo
- BCBG
- Bisou Bisou
- The Sak
- Lesportsac
- Pura Lopez
- Rebecca Sanver
- Aerosoles

ACCESSORIES

- Swarovski
- Majorica
- Anne Klein
- Carolee

Rustan's NEW FEATURES ON THE LADIES' FLOOR

- New brands and collections from the designers of the New Establishment
- More convenient, more intuitive space planning
- Larger-than-life, insightful visual merchandising
- Adjacancies to suit the needs and wants of the customer
- New enticements
  - Personal shoppers
  - Salon (November 2001)
  - Café (QI 2002)

ADVT.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCT 27 - NOV 2

CH	2 7	4 2	5	7	9	13	23	29	31 34
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 Auto Focus 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Wing Commander 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *CMMA Awards* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Imbestigador 6:30 Bitoy's World 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Malcolm In The Middle 7:30 Simpsons 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	6:00 Viva Box Office 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng dilim 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 Reel Deal	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story *Cheers* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Ben Stiller* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Annette Bening* 12:00 El Coming Attractions
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 Business & Leisure 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Beethoven's Second* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Pokemon 7:30 Sinerama 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment Tonight Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 It's A Miracle 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Miss Earth* 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Ugnayan	4:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 El True Hollywood Story *Dominique Dunne: An American Tragedy* 7:30 El News Special 9:00 El True Hollywood Story *Growing Pains* 9:30 FYE! *Universal Halloween Party* 10:00 In Focus
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camilla 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Home Along Da Riles 10:00 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Speed 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 The Big Night *Pet Sematary* 9:00 Life With Roger 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonballZ 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:00 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:00 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Beat UK 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 InFocus *Hollywood Nights 2* 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:30 Wild On *The Big Easy* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camilla 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Oka Tokat 10:00 Pwedeng-Pwede 11:00 Headlines	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater *Double Revenge* 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:00 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:00 Por Un Beso 10:30 Dear Heart 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Later with Jools 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Johnny Depp* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
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	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camilla 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Attagirl 10:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines	4:00 Shop @ Home 5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Concert At The Park 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Normal Ohio 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Daddy Di Do Du 10:00 Sinerama 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Souvenirs of the 20th century	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:00 Por Un Beso 10:30 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Behind The Music 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camilla 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Lazer Patrol 6:30 Starcom 7:00 By Request 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonBall Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:00 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:00 Por Un Beso 10:30 Let's Play pool 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Halo-Halo 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Wild On 12:00 Talk Soup

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Director John Ford remained an enigma, biographer finds

BY BOB THOMAS

FORD. His life was full of contradictions.

LOS ANGELES—John Ford worked in movie studios for 52 years, first as an actor, then as director of two-reelers, later as creator of such enduring classics as "The Informer," "Stagecoach," "The Grapes of Wrath," "How Green Was My Valley," "My Darling Clementine," "The Quiet Man," "The Searchers" and "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance." Yet despite his long prominence, Ford remained an enigma to most of Hollywood.

Study in contrasts

Ford, who died in 1973 at the age of 78, was a study in contrasts. A lifelong Catholic, he was married for 53 years, yet had a reputation as a womanizer. Strictly business on a movie set, he drank himself senseless between pictures. His movies were filled with sentiment, but as a director he often demeaned set workers and actors—even John Wayne, whom he had made a star. An advocate of liberal causes, he also led efforts to ferret out those in the film industry suspected of communist leanings.

The aptly titled "Searching for John Ford," by Joseph McBride, explores with rare diligence the many incongruities about the great filmmaker's life. If anyone can fathom the Ford legend, McBride can.

Biographies

He is a longtime writer, critic and film teacher, and his biographies of Frank Capra and Steven Spielberg are models of scholarship.

The Ford book is McBride's most thorough yet—720 pages of text plus 118 pages of sources, filmology, acknowledgments and index. It is being published by St. Martin's Press.

He pursued his quest for over 30 years, tracking down everyone he could find who had known Ford. McBride traveled to Ireland to trace Ford's family origins; he went to Maine where Ford was born and grew up as Jack Feeney and to various film locations, especially Monument Valley.

Thirty years ago, McBride, who was teaching film in Wisconsin, felt that Ford had been neglected in his later, lackluster years.

So, he and Michael Wilmington, now film critic for the Chicago Tribune, proposed to write a book about Ford. When McBride informed Ford about the project, Ford growled, "My God! What for? You certainly picked a dull subject." McBride was later granted a contentious one-hour interview.

Years later, when McBride sent Ford some of his essays, Ford said he appreciated "the upbeat, kindly way you treated me" but declined the proposal for a biography—"I'm too old and tired." He died two years later.

"There are a number of mysteries; Ford was always a mysterious character," said McBride, in an interview from his home in Berkeley, California "That's why I thought a biography was needed and why it took so long.

Politics

"I spent a lot of time on his politics. It's confusing to people, because sometimes he took a very liberal stance, and at others a very conservative stance. At the end of his life, he was supporting Richard Nixon and the Vietnam War. But in the '30s he was what you might call a bleeding-heart liberal.

"While he was fighting the blacklist at the Directors Guild, he was also part of the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals, which was the ringleader of the blacklist . . . It was a dangerous game, playing both sides of the fence to protect himself."

McBride, who teaches film at San Francisco's New College of California, also puzzled over Ford's personal life: "He was puritanical, yet he fooled around with women. His wife tolerated that as long as she didn't know what was going on. There was the famous romance with Katharine Hepburn that I tried to get more information on.

"It's still unclear how intimate they were in a physical way. But certainly they had a very deep emotional connection. There is some evidence that Ford was tempted to leave his wife and marry Hepburn. But I think they both realized it wouldn't have worked out. She was a very independent woman, and he wanted a wife who would stay home."

Closeness

Their closeness began when Ford directed Hepburn in "Mary of Scotland," in 1936. Their paths diverged, but McBride maintains that their affections prevailed.

"In 1973, shortly before he died, Hepburn came out to visit him in Palm Desert for a week," he said. "Dan Ford, his grandson, was researching a biography, and Hepburn talked to (John) Ford on tape to help prod his memory. It's really moving to listen to."

Ford became notorious for his mean, sometimes sadistic treatment of actors. In the late 1920s, he elevated John Wayne from set worker to actor and recommended him for his first starring role in the 1930 epic "The Big Trail." Wayne's career foundered for a decade and then Ford made him a permanent star with "Stagecoach." They worked on a dozen films together, and Wayne endured constant belittling and badgering. Many others were also subjects of his cruelty.

"A lot of his problem was that he was a very sensitive, artistic guy, yet he grew up in a time when that was considered unmanly," McBride reasoned. "I think he overcompensated to cover up the fact that he was sensitive because he felt people would take advantage of him. In those days you couldn't run around Hollywood and say, 'I am an artist.'

Football

"He pretended the opposite, that he was a hard-nosed craftsman doing a job of work. The whole tough-guy thing was part of that. He played football in Portland, Maine, where he was called Bull Feeney. He conformed to the stereotype of the Irish immigrant—the brawler and tough guy."

One of his notable brawls was with Henry Fonda on the Hawaiian location of "Mister Roberts."

"I interviewed Fonda, and he re-enacted the fight for me," said the author. "He had me play Fonda, and Fonda played Ford. He showed me how he hit Ford. It was fascinating. Fonda was kind of amused by that time and a little bit sad. I interviewed Jack Lemmon in 1998. He witnessed the fight, and he gave me a terrific account of it."

AP

Lani Misalucha performs at the CCP

MISALUCHA. Motherhood is still her top priority.

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

AFTER packing the Araneta Coliseum at her Crossover gig, a rare feat for a local performer (only a few stars like Nora Aunor and Regine Velasquez have filled the Big Dome to capacity), Lani Misalucha moves over to a prestigious venue, the Cultural Center of the Philippines for a Halloween concert on Oct. 30 and 31.

Backing her up is a 40-piece philharmonic orchestra with special guests like the Philippine Madrigal Singers, flutist Antonio Maigue, tenor Ramon Acoymo, and Kuh Ledesma. Gerard Salonga is the musical director.

Scared

Lani admits she was scared about the prospect of singing at the Big Dome. First, very few singers have packed the cavernous venue, which has a capacity of 18,000. When she opened the show and saw the many people waiting for her first note, she was worried about the kind of reception she was going to get. It was only after the third number that she got her confidence back and there was no stopping Lani after that.

Despite her success, Lani says luck had a lot to do with it. Even in her press statement, she was quoted as saying, "I never imagined that I would be this blessed. I mean, come on, I *am* married, with two kids at that. In this business you have to be single, available and 'desirable' *para ka mag*-click. I don't fit that mold at all. I guess you can call that sheer luck."

Talent

Many will disagree with that statement, of course, especially that part about her not being desirable. Luck had something to with it but mostly, it was her talent that catapulted her to the top with other so-called "divas."

Admittedly, Lani entered the field late, content to languish in the anonymity of doing multiplex recordings. Once she got her foot in the door, however, her rise to the top was phenomenal.

Despite this, Lani remains the same. We remember interviewing her several years ago when she was about to crash the bigtime. She was very unassuming then. She still was when we talked to her at the Republic of Malate recently. One thing has changed, though. She seems more confident and more comfortable with the press. She giggles a lot now and doesn't mind losing her poise.

If she doesn't behave like a show biz denizen, that's because she rarely attends show biz functions, preferring to go home to be with her two kids—not because she has to but because she wants to. She still picks up her oldest kid from school and looks at motherhood as her number one priority.

Another baby

In fact, she and her husband, Noli, are already thinking of having another baby, possibly next year. That's a big if, however, and many of her admirers hope she will postpone her maternal plans.

Speaking of her husband, we ask her if he was insecure that his wife was earning more than he does at PLDT where he is an Internet manager. Lani assures us that her husband is quite secure about their relationship. She says Noli got several job offers to work in Silicon Valley in the US, which would have increased his pay tremendously. He decided not to accept the offer in deference to Lani, who has a successful career here.

Heavyweight

Meanwhile, another "heavyweight" performer will be doing her own thing in a venue near the CCP on the same nights, Oct. 30 and 31. Comedian Marissa Sanchez will entertain an intimate crowd at the Makati Skyline with songs and humor in "Halowin Hirit." The comic has just received an Aliw award for best stand-up comedy performance.

She will be backed up by the 8th Avenue Band with the special participation of Chris Medina, an international pianist who has performed aboard the Princess Cruise Lines, the one used on the popular TV series, "The Love Boat."

The concert marks Marissa's return to appearing before an intimate crowd. She used to appear regularly at the Hyatt's Calesa Bar at the start of her career. On Nov. 30, she will be seen in her first major solo concert, "Appetite," at the Music Museum.

Manalo wins top Jam prize

MANALO. Also won prizes at the Papuri Music Festival.

ABS-CBN hosted a triumphant celebration for the youth when it aired the finals night of Jam: Himig Handog sa Makabagong Kabataan last Sunday, Oct. 21, broadcast nationwide over ABS-CBN Channel 2 and its Regional Network Group.

Family of musicians

Neophyte writer-composer-performer Jonathan Manalo won a specially designed Jam trophy and P500,000 cash. Coming from a family of musicians, Jonathan adds his Jam honor to the songwriting prizes he has won from the Papuri Music Festival. He makes up one-third of the vocal group V3, which performed "Tara, Tena" along with up-and-coming R and R star Kyla and teen pop vocal quartet Kaya.

Michael Joseph Villegas took First Runner-up honors with his upbeat entry "Jam." Villegas is a former member of the rock band Rizal Underground and founding member of Color It Red. Razorback vocalist Kevin Roy and Color It Red frontwoman Cookie Chua did the vocals for "Jam." Mike won a trophy and P200,000 in cash.

Two best friends were the grand slam winners of the Jam audience prizes, as Lani Macaraeg and Lutchie Pumarega's "Si Eddi" took home the most number of votes in the Listeners' Choice, Readers' Choice and Net Surfers' Award polls conducted through DWRR and DZMM, Chalk and Star Studio magazines, and abs-cbn.com, respectively.

Three awards

This feat made contest organizers decide to award the Dingdong Avanzado-performed song the People's Choice Award—a collection of all three awards—and a P300,000 cash prize.

Former Kulay vocalist Radha won the Best Interpreter award for her rendition of "You Can Make It Happen," an inspirational song written by Dodjie and Elisa Simon for their young children.

Hosted by Pops Fernandez, Ryan Agoncillo, RJ Rosales and Jodi Santamaria, the evening was a celebration of the music and spirit of Filipino youth. This was underscored by a special medley by guests Sampaguita, The Dawn, The Eraserheads, Parokya ni Edgar, Piolo Pascual and the Ang TV Kids highlighting the most emblematic youth anthems from the '70s, '80s, '90s and the new millennium.

The "Jam: Himig Handog sa Makabagong Kabataan" soundtrack is available in CDs and cassettes nationwide through Star Records.

Manay Gina receives her 4th Star Award

FOR the fourth time, socio-civic leader and TV host Gina de Venecia has received a Star Award for her program "Pira-pirasong Pangarap," a weekly drama anthology that espouses the cause of battered women.

True stories

The top-rated mini-series on GMA-7 tells the true stories of abused women and children, and won the Philippine Movie Press Club's Star Award for Best Drama Mini-Series for the fourth consecutive year, proving that entertainment fare coupled with social responsibility is a winning recipe for viewers and critics alike.

In her acceptance speech, De Venecia thanked the women of The Haven, the home for abused women, for allowing her to use their stories as materials for the show.

The Haven celebrated its sixth anniversary recently. De Venecia said that the facility has rehabilitated more than 5,000 abused women since its inauguration in 1995.

Stint

The Haven was built by De Venecia during her stint as president of the Congressional Spouses Foundation in the 9th and 10th Congress.

"Pira-pirasong Pangarap" can be seen from Mondays to Fridays, 2 to 2:30 p.m. on GMA-7, and can be heard on dzBB, from 1 to 1:30 p.m.

The show's fans can also go on-line at the GMA network's website to check the show's latest episode. The webpage also features synopses and a photo gallery of past episodes.

DE VENECIA (right) helps take care of the young wards at The Haven.

Jericho Rosales acts again on the big screen

By Remy M. Umerez

ACTOR Edu Manzano calls Jericho Rosales an intense performer. "He was my confused son in "Tanging Yaman" and he surprised me with his absorbing performance. He reminded me of the late Dindo Fernando, who was an intense performer, too," he says.

Success

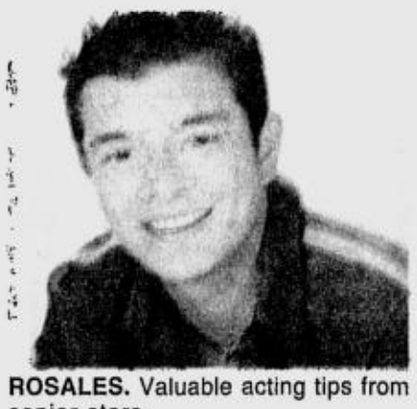
On television, Jericho is tagged as the Prince of the Teleseryes, thanks to the success of "Pangako Sa 'Yo." He intensifies the dramatic moments of the top-rating serial as well as provides the romantic interest of the female heroine, Kristine Hermosa, who is rumored to be his love in real life.

Where does he get the energy to essay the emotionally-charged roles assigned to him with conviction?

"Acting workshops help an actor to be less conscious and be more natural in his acting. We learn to remove all our inhibitions. I always welcome workshops before shooting starts but unfortunately not all directors conduct one."

The 22-year-old actor cites experiences in life as another strong factor for a credible performance. Whenever a scene requires him to be distraught, he tries to recall a personal experience where he felt down and out.

For Jericho, acting becomes easier if he can relate to the character he is portraying.



ROSALES. Valuable acting tips from senior stars.

Competent directors

"The director has the final verdict on how well or poorly your acting turns out. I feel blessed that I have been handled by competent ones.

"Two women directors I had worked with and admired most are Laurice Guillen and Marilou Diaz-Abaya. *Kapwa sila* perfectionist *at sa kanila ko nadiskubre kung ano talaga ang pag-arte,*" he says.

A recipient of several acting awards (PMPC Star Awards, Parangal ng Bayan), Jericho has been further inspired to achieve perfection in his craft.

Working with senior stars is a big edge for Jericho, for the valuable acting tips and professional advice they offer him.

In his new movie "Trip" (his first after "Tanging Yaman" which was shown December 2000) Jericho sheds his melancholic side and shifts to the fun feeling of being young in the youth-oriented presentation from Star Cinema.

He is set to steal scenes in the feel-good, feel-young movie megged by Gilbert Perez.

Crush

Jericho plays Erwin, a *probinsyano* who accidentally meets the pretty girl whom he has had a crush on years ago. The promise of a childhood love was abruptly cut when Celine (Kristine Hermosa) had to leave for the city. When Celine's *barkada* goes to Caliraya, they meet again—but as chance would have it, they are both already committed to other people.

"Trip" is about the fun and power the youth of today exude. The director is a young man himself who can feel the pulse of today's young generation. As for Jericho, he can easily relate to the role because he was raised and grew up in the province, and is in some ways very conservative.

"Trip" is the extension of the love team that was born out of Jericho and Kristine's pairing in "Pangako sa 'Yo."

The movie also stars Marvin Agustin, John Prats, Heart Evangelista, Paolo Contis, Onemig Bondoc, Desiree del Valle and Julia Clarete.

Unwelcome surprises

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

CHRISTIAN elder Coney Reyes recently gave me Harold J. Sala's "Tomorrow begins Today," a book on daily spiritual sustenance. The essay for Day 109 struck me like a thunderbolt. It was about unwelcome surprises.

Indeed, in life, we are often confronted by unexpected events that suddenly throw our sanity in disarray, drastically change the direction of our life, and make us question the very foundations of our existence. How should we handle them?

Coping

Sala answers, "Psychologists call it 'coping.' Some think of it as 'rolling with the punches.' With resignation others say, 'That's life!' But when unexpected surprises come our way, we can do one of two things: Fight them and become bitter, or reach out for the grace of God and become better because of what we have endured."

I cried when I read that. Truly, all of us have had our own share of unwelcome surprises in our lives. When they come, we are at a loss about what to do, how to react, whom to turn to. The process of coping can be so painful that it paralyzes us for a while, enough time for us to lick our wounds, shed wordless tears of resignation, and learn to accept.

And as we feel weakened by the pain, we soon realize that they actually strengthen us. Here are some classic examples of unwelcome surprises that have visited my life. As I look at them now, I know that they've been the roads God built in the jungles of my life for me to know where to go to come nearer to Him:

Surprise party

Three days after my nth birthday, my brothers and sisters summoned me to go all the way from my house, then in Meycauayan, Bulacan to our ancestral home in Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig. I cheerily thought to myself, how sweet it was for my family to throw a surprise party for me 72 hours after my birthday.

I was prettying myself up before alighting from the car when my brother Tad opened the door and quietly told me, "Hurry. Get out of the car now. Mommy passed away."

* * *

My daughter just graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines with a degree in linguistics. I thought she was a shoo-in for an exciting job at the French embassy, or something, and I was dreaming of a blond grandson with blue eyes in a few years, not to mention a dashing and debonaire man of the world for a son-in-law.

Then, one day, she sidled up to me and tearfully confessed she was pregnant. As my French reveries crumbled down, she told me she wanted to get married.

* * *

I entrusted my money and my deepest secrets to some very helpful friends. We'd known each other from way back when dreams were simple and the ways to realize them were simpler still. We glorified in the cozy comfort of our friendship.

Then, I woke up one morning to find out that, not only was all my money gone, but my friends had vanished, too.

Medical check-up

I accompanied somebody to the hospital. To put to rest the worries of many friends and relatives who had been pestering me about it for quite some time already, I decided to also submit myself to a routine medical check-up.

After a series of tests, the doctors described me as a walking time bomb. They didn't allow me to go home anymore. Three days later, they sliced my chest open for a double heart bypass operation.

* * *

My mind was filled with bright ideas on how to improve my TV show, which I was excited to present to network management in time for the re-negotiation of my contract.

Then, I learned that my show was gone!

* * *

After several years, a long-lost friend returned to his place in my heart that has never been filled by anybody else since he vacated it. There was a voiceless song being sung deep inside me as we both tried to reconnect the severed threads of yesterday's passions.

But I soon realized it was no longer meant to be. I remembered the feelings, but I didn't remember the reasons anymore. I asked why. There were no answers, only frustrations.

Best lessons

Indeed, God knows our vulnerabilities. He knows which situations to allow to happen in our lives for us to feel the most pain as a way of making us learn the best lessons with which we can be moulded according to His divine plan for us. Each of us really has his own thorn in the flesh that God uses to make us better followers.

Sala quoted Paul, speaking about his own thorn in the flesh, in 2 Corinthians 12: 8-10: "Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My Power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

"That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

At first, this sounded like the kind of divine logic I couldn't understand—perhaps because I was all-too-human, heir to human limitations and weaknesses. Or perhaps because I was just so wounded that the pain numbed me beyond my senses. Or perhaps because I lacked faith—*my* faith could hardly move a molehill!

But, in time, I've caught a glimpse of how this thing called God's grace works. It is for us, God gives it freely. Trouble is, we don't ask for it when everything is alright with our world.

In fact, we tend to forget God when everything's fine in our life. And that's why we need unwelcome surprises. The deeper the pain it gives, the more urgently we feel the need to seek the Lord's hand.

And it forces us to deepen our faith—which is the lifeline that connects us to Him.

Best protection against terrorism

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THE BEST protection against terrorism is to surrender at the feet of the Supreme Lord. By taking refuge of the Supreme, one gains protection from all harm and danger.

True brotherhood

Abandon all varieties of religion and simply love God. When we stop thinking of ourselves as Christian, Muslim, Hindi or Buddhist and instead acknowledge that we are eternal parts and parcels of the Supreme Being, then we can realize true brotherhood and work together to please our common Master, Friend and Father.

* * *

Sages do not sow seeds of conflict and division. They only spread the truth that unites everyone as children of the Supreme; they only awaken the dormant love in the hearts of the fallen and bring hope to the weary.

* * *

By constantly reading the papers and watching the news on terrorist attacks, we become immersed in fear and anxiety. By reading transcendental literature and hearing about the Supreme, we become immersed in joy and inner peace. It is therefore our choice as to what we focus our consciousness upon and what our consequent experience will be.

* * *

Real freedom is not liberation from terrorists but freedom from selfishness, anger, illusion and material desires. The prison of ignorance and lust in the material sphere binds the living entity to a life of misery and suffering.

When the living entity is enlightened and experiences true love for God and others, he breaks out of the prison and is able to go back to his real home, the spiritual realm. That is true freedom and liberation.

Awakening

The terrorists attacks in America have caused many to analyze what are the important things in life. Many have given up vacations, travel, shopping sprees, etc. It is an awakening, an eye-opener.

Stick to essentials and junk the trivial. Life is not worth throwing away for mundane excursions; it is better used for the essential pursuit of self-realization and spiritual happiness.

* * *

The best cause to fight for is that which allows people to experience love and real happiness—the execution of the will of the Supreme, to awaken our lost relationship with the Supreme Beloved and to let us taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.

* * *

Materialists are worried about economic recession, but not about spiritual degradation. They worry about dwindling profits but not about spiritual starvation. In this way, they become the most anxious of all and the greatest losers in life.

* * *

Real happiness exists just as real love exists. If we have not found it, we have been looking for it in the wrong place. The sages who have tasted it teach us where to find it. We must seek out these sages and follow their direction.

'Cover Story' lacks coverage

By Nestor U. Torre

ASIDE from screening Filipino films, the Cinema One TV channel also originates shows about the movies. One of them, "Cover Story," focuses on a movie luminary's career each week. The show is hosted by Dingdong Dantes, himself a young show biz star.

Nominal

It turns out, however, that Dingdong's host status is largely nominal. He is, in fact, only an occasional narrator and annotator, and doesn't stamp his personality and mind-set on the show, as all good program hosts are supposed to do.

Last week, "Cover Story" focused on Onemig Bondoc, but Dingdong never even got to converse with the show's featured star. All Dingdong did was appear on-camera for five or six times, mouthing bits and pieces about Onemig, and that was it.

Why didn't Dingdong act like a real host on the show? Perhaps because he was too busy to do more than tape a few spiels for the program? Perhaps because they didn't pay him enough for him to devote enough time to his hosting chores on the show?

Whatever the reason, "Cover Story" needs an honest-to-goodness host who will do more than just occasional narration, and who will interact with each week's featured star.

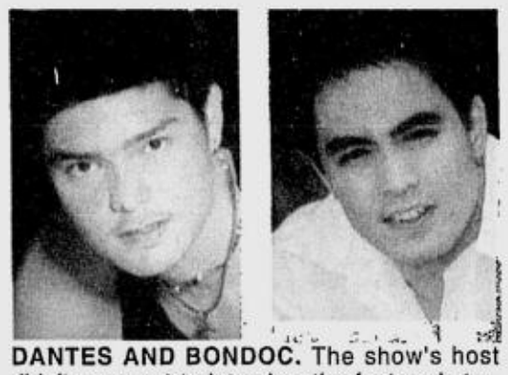
Young viewers

Perhaps Dingdong isn't being made to do more on the show because he's too young to do a good hosting job? If so, then a more experienced co-host should be found for him, if Dingdong has to be retained to help make the show appealing to young viewers.

In any case, something's got to give, to improve, to give the program a clearer sense of organization and direction.

Last week's feature on Onemig Bondoc left something else to be desired. There *was* an attempt to make sense of the highs and lows of Onemig's six-year career in show biz, like his having experienced creative burnout, the mistakes he made in his immature years, the breaks he took for granted—but the analysis did not go deep enough for viewers to get a good handle on Onemig's uniqueness as a performer.

It took him too readily at his word, dismissing too many controversies as merely the handiwork of his "detractors." This facile and amorphous approach did little to explain why, despite his looks and the great breaks he got early in his career, Onemig has not ended up as big a young male star as Diether Ocampo, Piolo Pascual and Jericho Rosales. *Therein* lies the rub, and the mystery.



DANTES AND BONDOC. The show's host didn't even get to interview the featured star.

Found wanting

There was a time when it looked like Onemig was headed for the top—but his performances (not just his attitude) were found wanting. This cannot be blamed on the usual faceless "detractors," but on the actor's poor preparation for an upwardly mobile stellar career.

In this regard, "Cover Story" simply didn't cover enough ground, blithely avoiding some key areas that would have helped it shed more focused light on the stellar subject at hand. Would that the show works harder and more incisively, next star around.

Finally, we must observe that Dingdong Dantes' insufficiency as program host of "Cover Story" is par for the course for Cinema One, which has the unenlightened penchant for tapping unprepared young personalities to do hosting chores, just because they're popular and can connect with the youth audience.

Awkward

This is "logical" from the pesos-and-centavos point of view, but it makes some of the movie channel's shows look awkward and amateurish.

Hosting is *much* more than just a matter of being young, popular and able to read spiels from idiot boards, and the sooner the folks at Cinema One realize that, the better for the channel, and most especially for its viewers.

As for Dingdong Dantes, he should be told that an important ability of a show biz star who isn't destined to be a flash-in-the-pan is knowing what he *can't* do—and refusing to do it.

MTV Philippines supports Counter-Strike finals

PHILIPPINE Computer Gaming League (PCGL) and Intel, in cooperation with Villman Computer Systems Inc., present DEFRAG: 2001 Counter-Strike National Finals on Oct. 27 and 28, 2001, 10 a.m. at the Expo Trade and Music Hall, Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Muntinlupa City.

The event will showcase the latest in hardware technology, and feature the most popular game in the Philippines, which will be played by the top 64 teams of the league.

Culmination

DEFRAG represents the culmination of events that started June 30, 2001 (DEFCON 3), and the top 64 teams battle it out in a hectic two-day double elimination match-up. The PCGL 2001 Season Champion gets to represent the Philippines in the CPL $150,000 World Tournament in Dallas Texas in December. Over P500,000 worth of prizes will be given away to participants and spectators during the two-day tournament. If you are a serious gamer, this is the gaming event you should not miss.

Aside from the Counter-Strike Tournament, the event showcases the latest in computer technology. The tournament is powered by Pentium 4 processors provided by Intel and more than a hundred "power" computer systems from Villman Computer Systems Inc.

Emerging technologies

DEFRAG will also provide a hands-on glimpse into emerging technologies like Gigabit Ethernet and Wireless (WIFI) Networking. Servers will be provided by Compaq computers to provide superior backend support and a 10/100/100 hybrid LAN courtesy of Linksys.

For more details you may visit the website of PCGL at www.pcgl.com.ph, e-mail at pcgl@pcgl.com.ph or call +63 2 893-1471 or +63 917 528-1810.

What does and doesn't scare Rosa Rosal, Janice de Belen and Paolo Bediones

BY JOCELYN VALLE

ROSAL. A vehicular accident.

BEDIONES. Hosting a beauty contest.

DE BELEN. Failing at something.

HALEY Joel Osment, as eight-year-old Cole Sear in the hit movie, "The Sixth Sense," has a frightening secret: he sees dead people. But what's scarier is the fact that he can't tell anybody about it (until he meets Bruce Willis' character, Dr. Malcolm Crowe).

This makes him appear freaky to normal, living people around him (except for his loving mom, played by Australian actress Toni Colette).

Malcolm, Malcolm's wife and Cole's mom are likewise living in fear. He can't reach out to his wife and she can't let go of him. Ms Sear is trying her best as a single parent to Cole, while struggling to come to terms with her late mother.

Secret

"She saw you dance," says Cole to his mom in the car, after telling her of his secret, adding the he's in touch with his grandmother. He knows that when his mom visits her mom's grave, she asks her a question.

"The answer is everyday," he relays what his grandmother has told him. She cries. She had wanted to know: Do I make her proud?

Ghosts, ghouls and paranormal encounters are not the only things that frighten people. There are certain situations and experiences in real life that are equally, if not more, fearsome.

"Finding out that you've failed at something in life is scary," shares actress-turned-TV host **Janice de Belen**, agreeing that the collapse of her marriage to actor John Estrada is an example.

"But it's scarier when you finally realize that it's not going to work anymore. The process of arriving at that realization is the scariest. *Bago ka kasi dumating sa desisyon na 'yan*, you've got to go through the whole process -- the anger, the denial, the betrayal, the grieving."

Dreadful chapter

How was she able to deal with that dreadful chapter in her life? "I just woke up one morning and realized the kind of life I want," Janice recalls. "*Ito ba ang gusto ko*? Then you have to do something. For you to be able to move on, it has to come from within. You pray.

"We pray for all the things we want. Sometimes we don't see where our prayers lead us. Then one day you ask for guidance and you find out that's where you're being led."

"Sometimes, *totoo 'yung mga* messages *sa* text," she grins. "I must admit that all the encouragement sent to me through text messaging helped me a lot."

After making that big decision (of separating from her husband), Janice tells us that moving on and living her life on a new level didn't scare her anymore.

"The experience made me understand a lot of things," she smiles in reflection. "*Kasi may mga bagay na hindi ka naiintindihan.* When a humbling experience happens to you, *sa dami ng beses na nag-i-isip ka*, *nabo*-broaden *ang* mind *mo. Nag-i-iba ang* perspective *mo sa napakaraming bagay.*"

Shifting from acting to hosting ("Sis" daily and "S-Files" every Sunday, both on Channel 7) didn't frighten the former soap opera star. "It was hard *pero mas* scary *kung mawala* or *hindi mag*-rate *'yung* shows," she shares.

Full trust

Thankfully, not a lot of things terrify Janice. She's wary of giving her full trust to people but she's not become suspicious of them. "Not every person is the same," she explains. "*Iba-iba ang tao – iba-ibang* character, *pinanggalingan*, history, etc. You just hope and pray for the best.

"I'm only fearful to find out *na baka wala pa rin akong natutunan,* and of the possibility of not being happy again," she allows. She's not bothered not finding "The One" for her—though. "I'm sure, *and'yan lang siya*," she winks.

Where does she get her optimism? "I guess, my faith," she offers. "And I'm basically a positive person. Things happen but definitely, something better will come. And God is fair."

Janice's "S-Files" co-host, **Paolo Bediones**, who's also on Channel 7's "Extra-Extra" and "Digital LG Quiz Show," considers hosting the Bb. Pilipinas coronation night in March, 1998 the scariest moment of his life.

"Before I entered the business, I wasn't scared of challenges," he recalls. "It was just that moment because I knew it was something I wanted so badly that I was willing to put everything on the line.

"After that, at least I could tell myself that I earned the right to be given a chance because I worked so hard before that, and there were so many discouraging moments."

Paolo remembers going through a hundred videotape screen tests just so he could get into commercial modeling. When he felt he was ready for a career in broadcasting, he prayed so hard to be given a break.

Chance

"That was all I needed – a chance," he says, nodding. "I think that's all people need, a chance to prove what they can do, and show what they can give."

Finally, when GMA 7's bosses took notice of his potentials, Paolo knew that the attainment of his goals was in the palm of his hand—and it terrified him.

"Even scarier was the time I walked up the stage for the first time and opened my mouth. It was not until I said goodbye and good night that I felt better," he recounts, shaking his head.

"That was so scary, but I knew deep in my heart that it was the start of something—if I did well. It would be life-changing and there was no turning back."

And, since then? "It's been fantastic," he exclaims. "More than the finances. it's the psychic rewards that have surpassed my expectations. I can actually go out and educate, influence, entertain and inspire people through the stories that I do on my shows."

Still, Paolo feels butterflies in his stomach whenever he's in front of the cameras. "The one thing that I look forward to is the feeling of being nervous," he shares.

"*Ang* mentality *hindi dapat 'Sana hindi ako magkamali.' Ang dapat: 'Pag nagkamali ako, ito ang gagawin ko.'* In my line of work, too much confidence can lead you to so many things that you don't want in your career."

Insecurity

Paolo is not bothered by the supposed insecurity of life on TV and the intrigue that accompanies his status as a celebrity. He is scared of the possibility of waking up one day and he would not be dreaming anymore.

His advice to people who are afraid to take that first step? "You'll never know what the possibilities are unless you try," he reminds us. "And trying it is like opening a door. *Kung hindi mo subukan na buksan ang pinto*, you won't even know it's locked. Once you open the door, you can see what's inside – the possibilities and different opportunities to try.

"It's scary when you're on your deathbed and you look back in your life and say, '*Sana ginawa ko ito.*' People always have regrets but my goal is to be able to look back and tell myself that I lived my life with the least amount of regret possible."

And one person who leads a full and meaningful life is actress and Red Cross governor **Rosal Rosa**, who's admired not only for her beauty and talents but most importantly for the goodness of her heart.

She's won citations for her public service, including the Ramon Magsaysay award, for which her cash prize of $50,000 has been placed in full in a trust fund that will finance the education of poor but deserving college students.

Volunteer work

She started her volunteer work for the Red Cross in 1948 and became fully committed two years later. Since then, she's been through unimaginable situations just so she could find donors for patients in dire need of blood. She's moved heaven and earth to make sure the country has a reliable blood program.

Going through all those experiences didn't daunt Rosa. She is fearless. There's one incident, though, that she considers her most horrible experience. It was in 1972, during the 40-day rain in Central Luzon, and the Red Cross had to distribute relief goods to the flood victims.

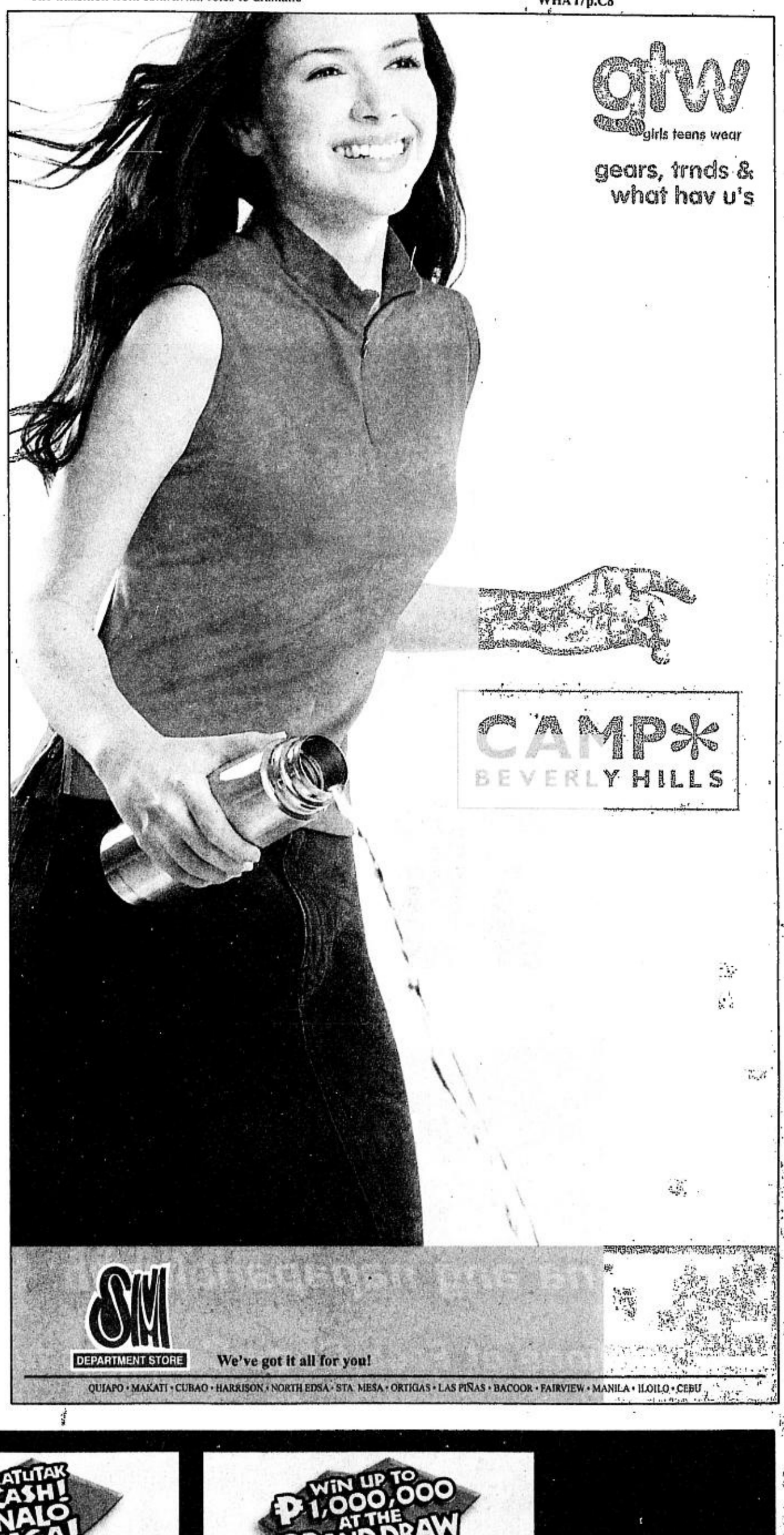
"*Nakasakay ako sa* amphibian truck," she recalls. "Imagine that's on a *baha*! I was on Roxas blvd. And *makikita mo na puro dagat na hindi naman dapat.* Then *tumaob ang aming* amphibian truck and we were avoiding the electrical wiring *kundi* we'll be electrocuted!"

Rosa also remembers that when she started tackling her dual roles as an actress and a Red Cross volunteer, a lot of people questioned her motives.

"They were confused," she explains. "*Contravida, tapos magre*-Red Cross—*ano ba ito*?! *Siguro* publicity *lang*. For a while they couldn't accept that. Later on, they realized that I'm for real."

The transition from *contravida* roles to dramatic characters wasn't a problem for Rosa, whose starrers "Anak Dalita," "Badjao" and "Biyaya ng Lupa" have

WHAT/p.C8



Reese Witherspoon's blonde ambition

WITHERSPOON. 40 hairstyles and 60 wardrobe changes.

BY CHRIS SCHLEGEL

SHE may have given up acting for a couple of years to have daughter Ava Elizabeth with husband Ryan Phillippe, but don't look for 25-year-old Reese Witherspoon to bow out of the business any time soon. She's got a new movie, another in the can and three more in various stages of development.

Sunny vengeance

First things first. Witherspoon returns to the screen with a sunny vengeance in "Legally Blonde," an update of "Clueless" featuring Reese as Elle Woods, a quintessential California girl who heads to Harvard Law to win back the man she loves. The part called for more than 40 hairstyles and 60 wardrobe changes, but for an actress who likens her work to "anthropology," no bit of authenticity goes unrewarded.

In the following interview, Witherspoon talks about how tough it was to walk in Elle's shoes, explains why she named her production company Type A Films and worries that she's getting "stupider every year."

In "Legally Blonde," everyone assumes Elle's a ditz because of her hair color. Have you ever been the victim of blonde prejudice?

Blonde prejudice, no. But I have had to deal with stereotypes of being southern.

Southern accent

People hear a southern accent, and automatically figure you have seven children and are barefoot, living on a farm, married to your cousin.

Obviously that's not true. I can clearly see that you're wearing shoes.

[Laughs.] Oh, I had to fight it. When I started acting, I was told to lose my accent, or I wouldn't work that much. But I still have it. It comes out whenever I go back home.

Was it hard playing a character who was so irrepressibly cheery?

It was definitely a challenge to be perky all the time, especially when you have a 5 a.m. call and you've been up all night with the baby. What was even more challenging was making her somebody the audience would like.

You look at her, and she's a rich sorority girl who has it all, and you wonder, Who's going to identify with her? So, we worked on making her giving and friendly and likable.

Could you at all identify with her?

I don't have the kind of self-image that I'm the type of girl that everyone wants to be friends with.

Independent

I've always been the kind of person—even when I was a little girl—who was very independent, always in my room playing by myself. I see myself as very private and very quiet. So, Elle was definitely a stretch.

How about the assertive and opinionated young women you played in "Election" and "Pleasantville." Are they more your type?

Oh, I'm good at letting my opinions be known. What I'm bad at is probably the vulnerable sides of characters. That's difficult for me and a challenge I'm facing now. I'm trying to push myself to be more vulnerable.

You had a pretty good career roll going, and then you got pregnant. Did you worry about what taking time off might mean?

I've always been very serious about what I do. I know what I want out of life, and I try to focus on those things. I've always wanted to be one of those people who had a long career, and I wanted to be taken seriously. So, I've worked hard at taking roles that were very unique.

So, no, I didn't worry, because I'm in this for the long haul, and I think I've done a pretty good job at establishing myself. Being gone for a year or two wasn't that big of a deal. I believe things happen for a reason.

Naming your production company Type A Productions wasn't an accident, was it?

Ever since I was little, my parents called me Little Type A. I guess it fits. I was always very driven. I always did extracurricular activities, and I always did the extra credit.

Teachers

I would do it even before the teachers assigned it.

So, are you the kind of person who has to work at relaxing?

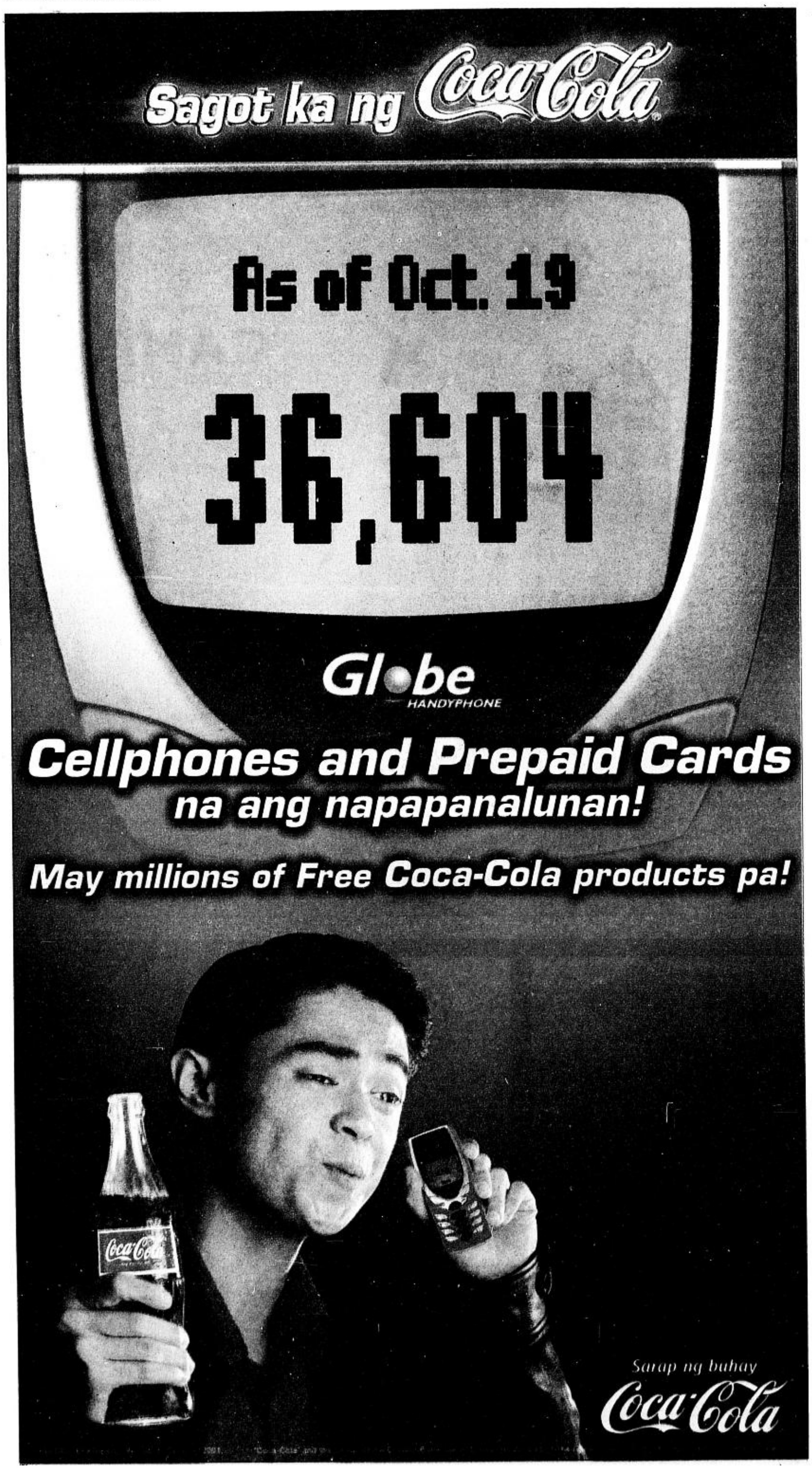
I probably don't stop enough to relax. There's a lot to be done! I love to bake—that's my stress reliever.

It's probably hard to breathe with "Legally Blonde" being your first big solo star vehicle.

It's a huge sense of responsibility. It's a big pressure to have it all on you, that's for sure. But I've had a lot of experience leading up to this. Nothing prepares you for it, but you just try to take it in stride.

What does Ryan Phillppe think about seeing you so glamorous on the movie's billboards?

I don't think he recognizes it's me. It's such a departure. With that hair, I think I could be standing underneath one of those advertisements and go completely unrecognized. In that sense, it's perfect.



Denzel Washington goes to town in nasty way in 'Training Day'

BY DAVID GERMAIN

WASHINGTON. Playing the bad guy can be fun.

TORONTO—No more Mr. Nice Guy for Denzel Washington.

He's taken a sharp turn to the dark side with his role as a corrupt and flashy detective in the police thriller "Training Day."

Washington's character, Alonzo Harris, is about as far removed as imaginable from his sternly paternal football coach in last year's "Remember the Titans" or the tough but upright heroes he's played in "The Siege" and "Crimson Tide."

Single day

Alonzo lies, cheats, steals, bullies and indiscriminately shoots his way through a single day on the narcotics squad in Los Angeles, paired with an idealistic rookie detective (Ethan Hawke) who hopes to join his team.

If audiences ever typecast Washington as someone who only plays the sweetest of men, "Well, this will take care of that, won't it?" he said with a huge laugh during an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival, where "Training Day" premiered.

"You're always looking to do different things," Washington said. "Quite frankly, I'd never been offered anything like this before. Maybe I have been stereotyped in Hollywood. Maybe they think, no, he can't pull that off or he's not that type, or maybe they think, he won't want to do it. But I've done it now. It'll be interesting to see if I get offered any more like it."

Pre-med program

Washington, 46, grew up in New York and attended Fordham University, where he started off in a pre-med program, switched to political science and later to journalism. He then took a drama class figuring it would be an easy way to get a B, and by the next summer he was working as a camp counselor and helped put on a talent show.

"One of the counselors said, 'Man, you're really good on stage. You ever thought about acting?' Ding. The little bell goes off in my head," Washington said. "So I went back to school that fall and changed into the theater program."

After college, Washington did stage productions, including Shakespeare in the Park in New York City, and moved into television movies and a long stint on the series "St. Elsewhere." During "St. Elsewhere," Washington and his wife moved to Los Angeles, where they live with their four children.

Washington made his feature-film debut with "A Soldier's Story" in 1982, reprising a role he had created on stage. He won a supporting-actor Oscar for 1989 with "Glory" and earned Academy Award nominations for "Cry Freedom," "Malcolm X" and "The Hurricane."

Rough edges

While many of Washington's characters have had rough edges, they've generally been the good guys—decent, respectable, classy figures. He began realizing it might be fun to try his hand at the villain's role while shooting "Devil in a Blue Dress" in the mid-1990s, as he watched co-star Don Cheadle steal the show as the heavy.

"I'm the quote-unquote lead, and I'm going, 'I'm just the set-up man for the bad guy,'" Washington said. "The guy walks into the picture, he's not in the picture 38 seconds before he shoots somebody, and he's got all the best lines. I just set him up. I set the pins up, he knocks them down. I was like, I've got the wrong part here. That's when I really got to see firsthand the fun you can have playing the bad guy."

"Training Day" co-star Hawke said it was a bold move for Washington to break with audience expectations and take on such a despicable character.

"It's the kind of part the Jack Nicholsons and Robert De Niros have gotten to play their whole career," Hawke said. "I think Denzel kind of gets pushed into that sort of role model position where he's not expected to do roles like this. It was such a ball watching him tackle such a complex figure."

Organ transplant

Next up, Washington will appear in the drama "John Q," in which he plays a father so desperate to secure an organ transplant for his son that he holds an emergency room hostage. The film was shot before "Training Day," though it does not hit theaters till early next year.

"John Q" is a "four-hanky kind of a movie," with his character evoking great sympathy from audiences, Washington said.

"I'm kind of glad 'Training Day' came out first just to change things up, because 'Titans' was sort of a good guy, good story, working with the kids. And now, just this awful guy," Washington said. A friend told him: "Well, if your fans hate you for doing 'Training Day,' 'John Q' can be your apology."

Washington also is set to make his directing debut with a drama tentatively called "Fish," inspired by a true story in which he stars as a psychiatrist counseling a troubled young man who turns his life around in the Navy. The film is due out next year.

"I think directing's just a natural progression, wanting to be challenged in a new way. It's sure been invigorating. I'm enjoying the process, I'm alive and awake and up and ready in the morning.

And I'm thinking ahead that if I'm any good at it and find I like it, it's sort of a segue. You look at guys like Mel Gibson and Clint Eastwood going into directing. I figured I'd throw my hat in the ring and see what happens." *AP*

What does . . . (From page C7)

wowed audiences here and abroad.

Reign

Ditto for the fact that her reign as a movie queen has long passed. "*Panapanahon lang 'yan*," she smiles, hoping that our popular stars are listening. "You can't be on top all the time. The sooner you realize it, the better.

"The lesson that my mother taught me when I was proclaimed movie queen a year after I entered the movies was: Look at the faces of the people who are helping you when you're climbing, because they might be the same people you'll meet when you're going down."

At 70, Rosa can say with certainty that she's not afraid of anything. "The only thing that I ask the Lord is to never allow me to be a burden to my daughter Toni Rose. In fact, I've told her that the minute I go, I want to be cremated. Because she's my only child, I don't want her to go through the agony.

"Once the Lord takes me, that's it. Absence of the body is presence with the Lord!"

Treat of the Week

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SaturdaySPECIAL D2

Waldorf Salad

2/3 cup mayonnaise
1 170g. can NESTLÉ CREAM
pinch of salt
1 tbsp. sugar
1 cup unpeeled, halved and seeded grapes
3 pcs. apples, cut to 1/2" wedges
1 cup walnuts, coarsely broken
2 stalks celery, cut to thin diagonal slices

Combine mayonnaise, NESTLÉ CREAM, salt and sugar in a bowl. Toss in fruits, walnuts and celery. Chill before serving.
Servings: 6

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Millions worldwide still loving 'Lucy' 50 years after show first aired

LUCILLE Ball was popular as a solo star and (right photo) with her husband Desi in their TV sitcom.

BY BOB THOMAS

LOS ANGELES—In 1950, when the networks were converting radio comedies to television, CBS decided to move "My Favorite Husband" starring Lucille Ball and Richard Denning to the new medium.

Ball agreed with one proviso: she wanted her real husband, bandleader Desi Arnaz, as co-star.

Dubious

Network officials balked: "No one would believe that Desi is your husband." She replied indignantly: "But he *is* my husband."

CBS and potential advertisers remained dubious about the pairing. Their objections, in part, were unspoken, observes Cleo Morgan Smith, cousin and confidante to Ball: "They wondered if the general audience would accept a Cuban Latino with an accent as Lucy's husband and leading man."

But accept them they did. A half-century after the Oct. 15, 1951, debut of "I Love Lucy," the sitcom has been seen in more than 90 countries by more people than any other television show.

And it really was love that started it all.

Ball and Arnaz had spent much of their married life apart while he toured with his band. By Ball's count, there had been several separations, and once she filed for divorce, then changed her mind.

Best chance

She firmly believed a TV series would be their best chance to remain married.

They even went so far as to take their show on the road to convince CBS they could work together. "My Favorite Husband" writers Jess Oppenheimer, Madelyn Pugh and Bob Carroll Jr. wrote a vaudeville act capitalizing on Arnaz's music and Ball's talent for slapstick.

"We knew that Lucy could do physical comedy," Pugh says. "If she told you something funny that had happened to her, she would act it out, and she was very funny."

The act drew enthusiastic response in major cities including New York, where the network naysayers reluctantly ordered a pilot and eight scripts.

Because the only way to record television in those pre-videotape days was by filming a TV screen—a fuzzy process called kinescope—CBS insisted that the show be made live in New York.

"We refused to move to New York," Ball said in her autobiography, "Love, Lucy." "Desi suggested that we film the show live in front of an audience (in Hollywood). The network people screamed. A film show cost twice as much as a live one.

"The sponsor wouldn't put up more money, and neither would CBS. So Desi made a canny offer: in return for a $1,000 weekly salary cut for us, we were given complete ownership of the show; originally CBS had owned half."

Technical quality

The transaction would produce a future fortune for the couple: shooting the sitcom on film meant that it had the technical quality to be rerun in syndication; owning the show meant that all the revenue from syndication—where a TV show typically makes its profit—went to Ball and Arnaz. The deal also would lead to sitcom innovations that remain industry standards to this day.

Arnaz's bold notion of filming before an audience

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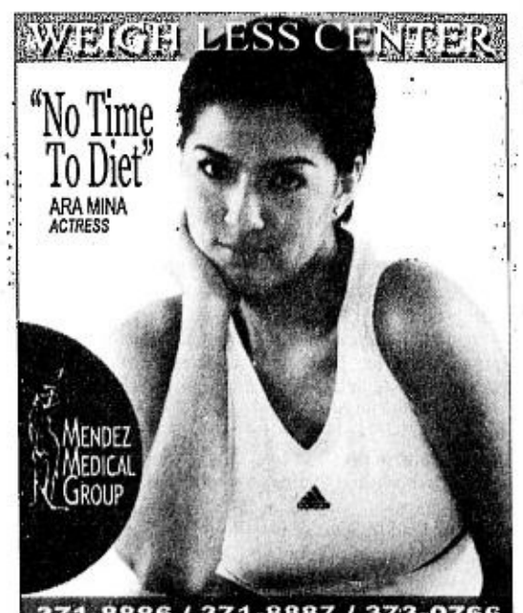

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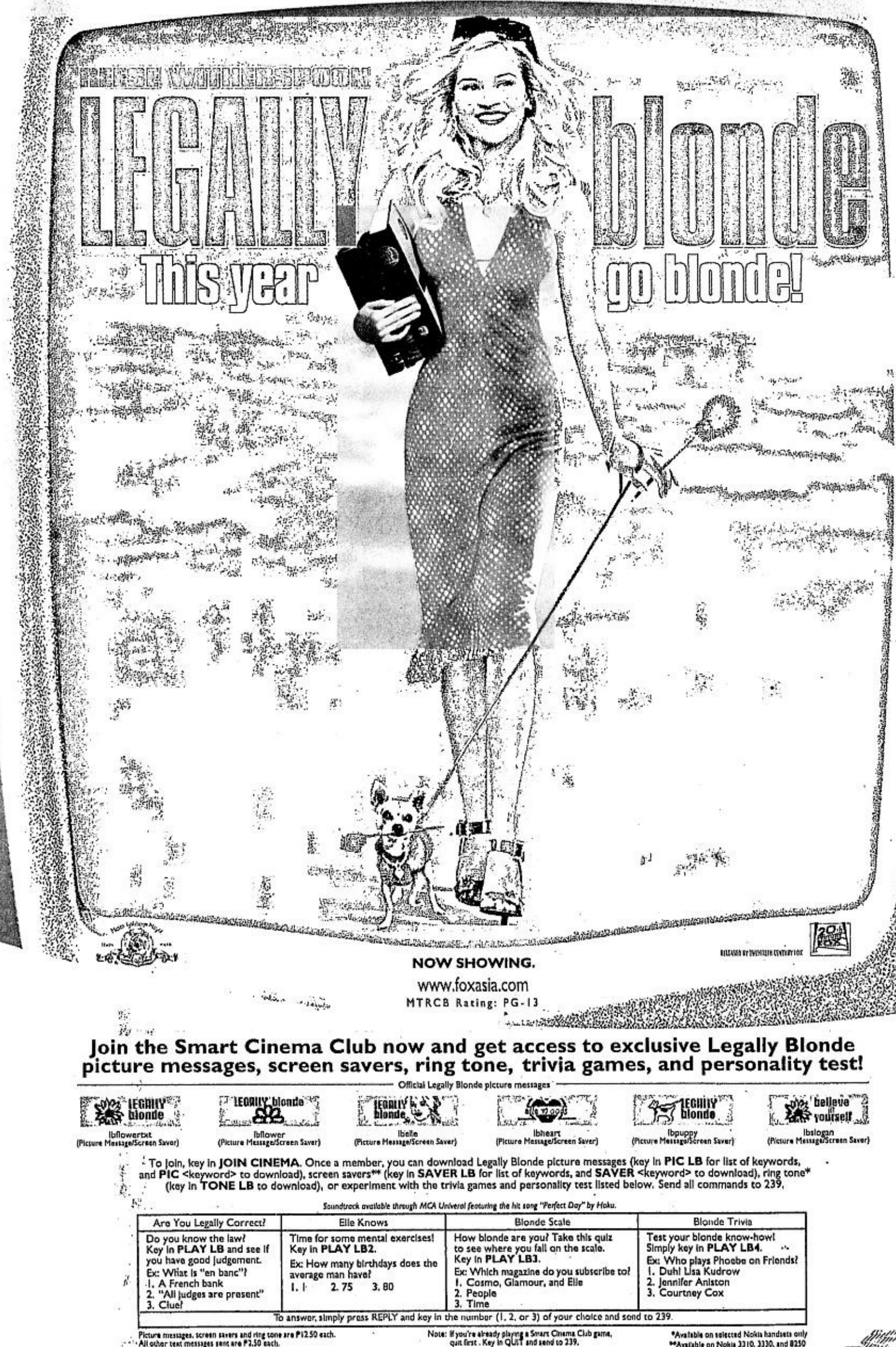

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Soundtrack available through MCA Universal featuring the hit song "Perfect Day" by Haku.

Are You Legally Correct?	Elle Knows	Blonde Scale	Blonde Trivia
Do you know the law? Key in **PLAY LB** and see if you have good judgement. Ex: What is "en banc"? 1. A French bank 2. "All judges are present" 3. Clue!	Time for some mental exercises! Key in **PLAY LB2**. Ex: How many birthdays does the average man have? 1. 1 2. 75 3. 80	How blonde are you? Take this quiz to see where you fall on the scale. Key in **PLAY LB3**. Ex: Which magazine do you subscribe to? 1. Cosmo, Glamour, and Elle 2. People 3. Time	Test your blonde know-how! Simply key in **PLAY LB4**. Ex: Who plays Phoebe on Friends? 1. Duh! Lisa Kudrow 2. Jennifer Aniston 3. Courtney Cox

To answer, simply press REPLY and key in the number (1, 2, or 3) of your choice and send to 239.

Picture messages, screen savers and ring tone are P12.50 each. All other text messages sent are P2.50 each.

Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first. Key in QUIT and send to 239.

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SMART Simply Amazing!

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Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: *Marunong ka bang magluto?*
Starlet: *Oo*, good cook *ako*!
Host: *Anong* dish?
Starlet: *Itlog*.
Host: *Anong klaseng luto?*
Starlet: *Putsero*.
(*Putserong itlog?*)

* * *

Host: If you win a lot of money tonight, what will you do with it?
Contestant: I will go to the States!
Host: What will you do there?
Contestant: I like imported clothes, so I will buy many imported clothes there!
(Great, but in the States, those clothes wouldn't be "imported" anymore, would they?)

* * *

Host: You've accomplished so much in such a short time.
Guest: Thank you!
Host: Tell us about what it took to get to the top.
Guest: It was difficult, but let me tell you, getting to the top is as hard as getting there!
(Huh?!)

* * *

Host: What is the secret for growing a very productive garden?
Guest: You have to give it a lot of time and attention. Plants need personal care.
Host: Anything else?
Guest: Do not rely on commercial fertilizers. It's always better if you do your own composing!
(How—musical!)

* * *

Host: What satisfaction do you get from your garden?
Guest: I'm satisfied because my garden will help all of the Philippines!
(Ah, let's not get carried away, shall we?)

* * *

Newscaster: What's the latest on the rally there?
Field reporter: It's still continuing up to this time, as the rallyists chant slogans in front of the United States!
(Uh, please repeat?)

* * *

Newscaster: *Sa* Washington, *marami nang agency ang kumikilos ngayon para imbestigahan ang pagkalat ng* anthrax *sa* Korea—*sa* koreo—*sa* Korea...!
(Make up your mind!)

* * *

Newscaster: *Nagsalita din sa* hearing *ang kilalang* journalist *na nagsusulat tungkol sa* German biological warfare.
(How did the Germans get into the picture here?)

* * *

Host: *Ano ang gagawin mo pag sinabi ng Tita mo na ilalayo ka niya sa pamilya mo para pag-aralin ka ng* high school *sa Estados Unidos*?
Contestant: *Ay, ayoko pong mahiwalay sa pamilya ko.*
Host: So, *ano'ng sasabihin mo sa tita mo?*
Contestant: *Sasabihin ko na lang po na sa susunod na lang po ako sasama sa kanya para mag-aral.*

Host: How old would you have to be, *sa palagay mo, para pumayag kang mag-aral sa* States?
Contestant: *Siguro, mga* 35.
(*Wala nang* high school *na tatanggap sa iyo noon!*).

* * *

Commercial announcer: *Pag ginamit niyo itong* magic liquid cleanser *na ito, magiging mas* exciting *ang* dishwashing!
(Duh!)

MACUJA. Her ballet company will perform "La Fille Mal Gardee" and shorter works tomorrow.

Ballet Manila performance

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 28, Lisa Macuja's Ballet Manila performs at Equitable-PCI Bank's Santiago Hall, Tower I, Makati ave., Makati City. To be performed are "Classical Symphony," the Balcony Scene from "Romeo and Juliet," "Sayaw sa Pamlang" and "Naughty Daughter."

The last ballet, "The Naughty Daughter (La Fille Mal Gardee)" is a humorous full-length ballet in two acts by Sergei Vikulov to the music of Herrold, as arranged by John Lanchberry. Tickets are at P300 each, with a 20-percent discount for senior citizens and a 50-percent discount for students.

On 'F' today

"F" on Channel 2 at 11 p.m. today presents features on Bacolod City and Silay City. Plus an interview with model Gina Celso, *a.k.a* "Gracia," whose popular ad campaign has made her the season's fave.

Radha's voice is the window to her soul

BY JOCELYN VALLE

WITH her large, expressive eyes, Radha could easily follow in the footsteps of her grandmother, the great dramatic actress, Lolita Rodriguez. But the 24-year-old former member of the now disbanded trio, Kulay (credited for dance-hip hop-rap tunes like the reworking of "Shout" and "Delicious"), would rather make her voice the window to her soul.

Satisfaction

"I've always been a performer," she smiles, sharing how she enjoys seeing satisfaction on her audience's faces whenever she sings for them. She started performing professionally at age 10, singing "Tomorrow" from the musical "Annie" for the revue "The Great White Way."

Three years later, Radha learned how to play the guitar and then she became part of 14K, a group of musically gifted children organized by Ryan Cayabyab. At 15, she joined Boom, which eventually became Kulay.

It was with Kulay that Radha was able to hone her craft and widen her musical horizons because the band was able to record four albums and perform in different places here and abroad. Last year, she decided to pursue a solo career.

"That's the reason why I left Kulay last year," she quickly informs us, giving us no room to speculate about more controversial motivations. She's now under the care of Ronnie Henares' talent management, Primeline, which helped Regine Velasquez become a big star and is now doing wonders for Lani Misalucha's career.

Regular gigs

So far, so good. She has regular gigs in bars in and out of Metro Manila and she's hoping to cut an album deal soon. "But at first I was scared and nervous," she admits, shaking her head. "So what happened was, on stage, I seemed too confident and detached from the audience."

"When you're nervous *kasi* you become too conscious of yourself," she explains. Sensing that she couldn't reach out and build rapport with the crowd, Radha realized that she shouldn't take solo performing too seriously.

She's learned to relax onstage and let her real personality, which is friendly and warm without being too eager to please, shine through.

Winning as best interpreter (together with the vocal group Noisy Neighbors) at the recently concluded ABS-CBN-sponsored songwriting contest, "Jam: Himig Handog sa Makabagong Kabataan," is just the beginning for Radha.

Just like her piece that is composed by Dodjie Simon, with lyrics written by his wife Ellis, "You Can Make It Happen," Radha believes that she can make things work for her. "That song is an inspiration for me," she nods, while making it clear that the couple didn't write it specifically for her.

"They wrote it even before I met them," she points out.

Gospel song

"Originally, it was a gospel song and then they wanted it to sound like country music. With arranger Marvin Querido's help, I got to do some ad-libbing."

The device is not like scatting, but close enough. It allowed Radha to show off her vocal range and emotional depth, enthralling the board of judges in the process. She crosses her fingers that she'll be able to duplicate the feat in her future recording.

It's important for her to showcase her own music, which is basically R&B and soul (she had classical training under Jai Sabas-Aracama, and was supposed to major in voice at the UP College of Music until she realized that opera didn't give her much fulfillment, unlike the joy that she derives from R&B and soul).

But she also recognizes the concerns of recording companies. It's a great challenge to mix artistic triumph, commercial success and personal satisfaction, but she will try her best to do exactly that.

RADHA. Has learned to relax onstage.

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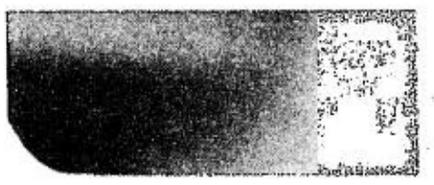
HINT: Check out *Sunday Inquirer Magazine* tomorrow, October 28 for a cool fragrance for My Wish Box.



RN57586

Millions . . . (From page D1)

meant the show had to run in real time—like a play. This required the use of multiple cameras so that all the necessary angles for a scene were shot simultaneously.

Now a sitcom staple, shows using multiple cameras were unheard of in those days. Most film productions had no audiences. Only one camera was used, and it was stopped and reset several times for each scene to get all the needed shots.

"We started with four cameras," explains Dann Cahn, the film editor throughout "I Love Lucy." "The fourth camera was abandoned because we didn't need it. (Also it impaired the studio audience's view.) The middle camera, B, got a master shot; the wing cameras, A and C, got a two-shot or a close-up, then they would move."

Interlocking the three cameras, synchronizing them with a soundtrack and then editing the three different film rolls into one cohesive program posed formidable technical challenges. But Arnaz hired the best.

Brilliant contribution

"Desi made one brilliant contribution," Cahn says. "He knew how to pick people, and he picked Karl Freund, who was not only director of photography and a lighting expert, but a director himself. He got the idea to light the show with no shadows. The lighting that Karl developed in 1951 is still used (in TV sitcoms) in 2001."

The first regular episode of "I Love Lucy" was shot on Sept. 8, 1951. An audience of 300 had been assembled on makeshift bleachers set up on what used to be a motion picture soundstage. Few of the guests probably realized they were witnessing television history.

Oppenheimer was the producer; he, Pugh and Carroll were the writers; Arnaz was executive producer.

Arnaz reasoned that the Ricardos needed another couple to help with the comedy. Ball had known William Frawley from her RKO days, and he was ideal for grumpy Fred Mertz. For his wife, Ethel, "I Love Lucy" director Marc Daniels recommended Vivian Vance, whom he had known from the New York theater.

The standard theme of "I Love Lucy" was nothing new: your basic battle of the sexes. Lucy, often in collusion with Ethel, was forever concocting schemes, usually to get into show business. Her plots typically erupted in disaster, evoking a blast of Spanish invective from Ricky. But they always ended up lovey-dovey.

Years later, the feminist movement criticized "I Love Lucy" for its alleged portrayal of a bumbling, subservient wife and a domineering husband. Pugh rebuts:

Housewives and mothers

"This was the '50s, for heaven's sake. Women were expected to quit their war jobs and become housewives and mothers. Lucy was following that pattern, but still, she wanted to get out of the house and into show business. As far as being subservient—she always won."

Arnaz's contributions to the success of "I Love Lucy" were sometimes overlooked. But not by Lucy. She wrote in the autobiography: "I had always known that Desi was a great showman, but many were surprised to learn he was a genius with keen instincts for comedy and plot. He has a quick, brilliant mind; he can instantly find a flaw in any storyline; and he has inherent good taste and intuitive knowledge of what will and will not play."

Cecil Smith, retired TV columnist of the Los Angeles Times, agrees: "One thing that was overlooked when Desi died was what a brilliant guy he was . . . Lucy couldn't have done it without him."

Ball's comedic genius could be observed with each succeeding episode.

"Lucy was absolutely fearless," Carroll says. "We'd ask her: 'Would you mind working with a burro?' She'd say, 'Is it funny?' 'Would you mind getting chocolate smeared all over your face?' She'd say, 'Is it funny?' If it was funny, she'd do it. It was a great way to work, knowing your star will do anything."

Physical stuff

"Bob and I tried out the physical stuff before we wrote the script," adds Pugh. "We didn't want to get to rehearsal and find out they didn't work, and we wanted to be sure she wouldn't get hurt. Once I tried riding a unicycle, and we decided against it. Too dangerous."

Pugh and Carroll visited the Farmers Market to see how chocolate candies were dipped. Another night they were walking on Hollywood Boulevard and saw someone flipping pizza dough into the air. They asked Ball to come to the restaurant to see if she could toss a pizza. She could.

She loved to rehearse, the writers recall, and she never ad-libbed, but if a stunt was getting a big response from the studio audience, she might milk the gag. This caused problems for film editor Cahn. "She played to the audience," he says. "That made it hard to cut the show to 26 1/2 minutes."

In its first season, "I Love Lucy" scored third in the Nielsen ratings, behind Arthur Godfrey and Milton Berle. For its remaining five seasons, "Lucy" reigned as the most-watched series, except for 1955-56 when it was displaced by "The $64,000 Question."

Ball received two Emmys, "Lucy" won two as situation comedy, and Vivian Vance was chosen once as supporting actress.

Sixth season

Ball and Arnaz had originally planned to make "I Love Lucy" for five years, but they agreed to stay for a sixth season. By that time, tensions between the pair were growing. Arnaz was under pressure to manage the growing Desilu empire, which included a half-dozen highly rated series. Ball had grown weary of the weekly deadline and wanted to spend more time with her kids.

And so on May 6, 1957, the last new "I Love Lucy" episode was aired. Ball and Arnaz made one-hour specials in the "I Love Lucy" format from 1957 to 1960, when their marriage—and their careers together—ended.

Arnaz sold his half of Desilu to Ball in 1962, married Edith Mack Hirsch in 1964, then tried a comeback as TV producer with "The Mothers-in-Law," which lasted two seasons. He made a few TV guest appearances, then retired to his San Diego County home. He died of lung cancer at 69 on Dec. 2, 1986.

Ball married comedian Gary Morton in 1961 and went on to star in three more series: "The Lucy Show" (1962-1968); "Here's Lucy" (1968-1974), with Lucie and Desi Jr. as her on-screen children); and "Life With Lucy" (1988). *AP*

TWO FOR THE SHOW

La Aunor's magic still captivates listeners

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

THE WEE Superstar's presence on stage is simply awesome, and once she opens her mouth to sing, you get mesmerized by her vocal power.

It was a vintage Aunor whom we saw and heard at the Music Museum recently, breathing life into and bringing back the luster of the hits of decades past.

More senior members of the audience were taken down memory lane as Aunor opened with the Streisand classic "People," so apt during these times when many of us have taken the route of self-centeredness and self-glorification, and "Here Comes the Sun," "All The Way," "You Make Me Feel So Young" and "What Now My Love."

Her rendition of "Didn't We" was flawless, and she sang "Windmills of Your Mind" pitch-perfect. Also interesting was her Love Medley, featuring songs like "Can't Buy Me Love," "All You Need Is Love" and "What the World Needs Now."

Jo Awayan was the only guest that night and she sang Kenny Loggin's "Footloose" with so much energy that one would think she had been injected with a hormone-boosting drug before the show. Aunor joined Awayan and they sang, in all their glossy leather glory, what we call the Tung Dynasty Medley, with highlights from the songs "Katawan" and "Badaf Forever."

Aunor shifted gears and went hopelessly romantic with her OPM medley: "Ikaw," "Ikaw Pa Lang ang Minahal" and "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin." The show went "regional" when she chose Ilocano, Bisaya, and Bicolano members of the audience to sing with her.

She called the officers of her various fans club onstage as she sang her cover version of the songs that she recorded in the '70s, thanking them for being with her through thick and thin.

She then capped the night with truly soulful interpretations of Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" and Shirley Bassey's "This Is My Life." As soon as she hit her last note, someone shouted, "Viva La Aunor!" And we could only utter: Amen!

Hiraya: All-male musical extravaganza

Last Sunday at Philamlife Auditorium in Manila, Hiraya, a 19-member all-male choir, impressed us with their exceptional gift of voice.

Billed "On Our Way," their concert featured a meticulously selected repertoire.

Hiraya opened with Meredith Wilson's "Till There Was You." Interesting was the way the members were dressed for the entire first act—"our everyday professional attire," as Dr. Bubut Vasquez explained, so we saw singing surgeons, lawyers, bankers, college boys, med interns, even gasoline station managers.

"Maghihintay Sa Yo," arranged by music teacher Joseph Legaspi, stood out in the first part of the show with the mellifluous vocals of soloist Arvin Veria.

They also got thunderous applause with their rendition of Felix Mendelssohn's "Beati Mortui" and Bob Carlisle's "Butterfly Kisses" with soloist Frenjick Quesada's brilliant vocal moments.

The second half opened with Kurt Bestor's haunting "Prayer of the Children." This was followed by the familiar "Cantate Domino." George Canseco's "Muling Buksan ang Puso" was one of the best pieces of the evening.

It was time to be playful and they had a blast with "La Cucaracha," complete with costumes and Mexican hats and maracas. Hiraya created a Make Your Own Kind of Music type of finale to showcase the individual vocal strengths of its members by way of songs they personally chose.

New boy bands who want to make it

Almost every love song we hear on the radio is done by a boy band. BoyzIIMen, N'Sync, Westlife, Backstreet Boys, a1, Plus One and 98 Degrees gained recognition, fame and fans because of their mushy love songs.

On the local scene we have Jeremiah, WiseGuys, Formula and 1201 competing against each other to win teenage fans.

The members of 1201 bond after their gigs by hanging out in coffee shops to analyze their performance or prepare their repertoire for their next gig. The members of the Formula boy band, on the other hand, feel that their twice-a-week rehearsal sessions bring them closer.

"Our first few gigs were tough. We made a lot of mistakes, and we try to correct them by evaluating ourselves after we perform," Dondee of 1201 relates.

"We don't copy the musical style of foreign boy bands. We pattern our image after them but we don't want to sound like them," Jon of 1201 enthuses.

Larry Hermoso of Formula agrees, "Filipinos don't like to hear copycats. When I was in Berkeley, I was inspired by my professor who handled BoyzIIMen so I listened to their music. *Kami lang ang gumagawa ng tunog na ganito*—ethnic groove of black music with elements of Pinoy pop."

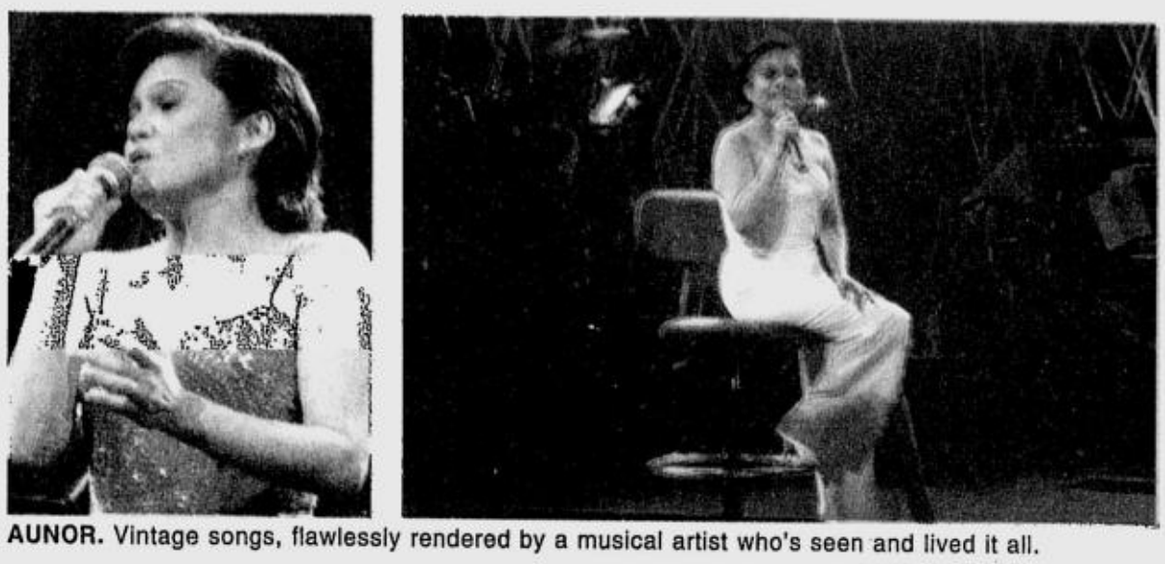
Fundraising auction

Bosom Buddies, a breast cancer support group, will have a fundraising auction of personal items belonging to celebrities like Richard Gomez, Gretchen Barreto, Bong Hawkins, Onemig Bondoc, Pres. Gloria Arroyo, Jose Mari Chan, Tingting and Mai Cojuangco, Cardinal Sin, Tin Tin Bersola and Julius Babao, among others.

The public is invited to purchase goods at the fundraising auction this Sunday, Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. at the Manila Yacht Club for the benefit of indigent breast cancer patients.

Bosom Buddies is a support group of breast cancer survivors dedicated to increasing breast cancer awareness in the community by reducing risks through early detection and treatment. For inquiries, call 810-0330 or 810-0810.

With her mature artistry, Nora brought back the luster of the hits of decades past



AUNOR. Vintage songs, flawlessly rendered by a musical artist who's seen and lived it all.

HIRAYA. Exceptional singers.

FORMULA. No copycats, they.

SPECIAL PROJECT

OSTEOPOROSIS

APPLE FONTANILA, Account Manager SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH MARIES D. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

A degenerative disease on the rise

Our level of awareness of this debilitating disease is low, but the incidence of osteoporosis in the aging population is high. Clearly, it's not just our bones that need to be reinforced.

BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ

GO to the dairy and milk section of a grocery and you'll notice the milk-based products are varied in terms of what they can do to an individual's health. There's "non-fat," "low-fat," or "skim dry" milk for adults trying to keep waistlines thin, as opposed to milk products with "bifidus," "DHA," "prebio" or "taurine" for children one year above.

Lately, labels such as "high calcium content," "fights osteoporosis" or "bone builder" have been screaming out of milk cartons to target women.

Milk, everyone knows, is almost the most complete food on earth and has the highest calcium content. With the calcium-that-prevents-osteoporosis campaign, milk seems to have found the perfect "packaging and promotion" scheme to sell itself.

But behind this calcium crusade, is there really a cause for concern for an individual's calcium intake and the debilitating disease osteoporosis?

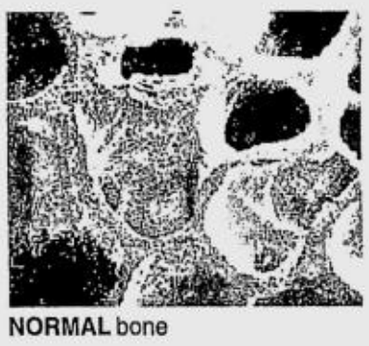
Department of Health assistant secretary Dr. Rolando Enrique Domingo says osteoporosis has lately been among the concerns of the department because of its high incidence in the aging population. Domingo says "degenerative diseases," which include cardiovascular-related illnesses, tuberculosis, cancer and osteoporosis, are now the major causes of sickness and death among Filipinos.

"The incidence of osteoporosis here may even be higher than in other countries because of low calcium intake among Filipinos, and also many Filipinos aren't milk drinkers," says Domingo.

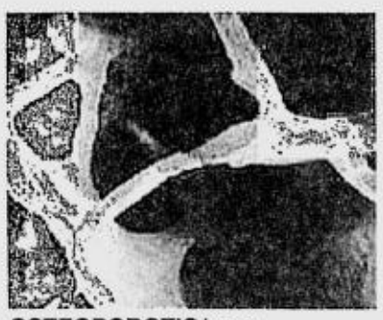
Osteoporosis, or porous bone, is characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue, leading to bone fragility and an increased susceptibility to fractures of the hip, spine, and wrist.

Calcium, on the other hand, is essential for building and maintaining healthy bones as well as other body functions such as regulation of heartbeat, conduction of nerve impulses, and stimulation of hormone secretions and clotting of blood. So whenever the body lacks calcium, it responds by getting calcium from the bones. When this happens all too frequently, the bone mass gets low—leading to osteoporosis.

Although the DOH is still conducting a national disability survey, the high incidence of osteoporosis in the country is reflected on the cases admitted in hospitals. For example, 60 percent of fracture cases treated at the National Orthopedic Hospital are due to osteoporosis, according to Domingo. This is also the trend in other hospitals that have treated fractures.



NORMAL bone



OSTEOPOROTIC bone

The Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation, Inc. says the incidence of osteoporosis among the elderly is on the rise and has reached 'alarming levels'

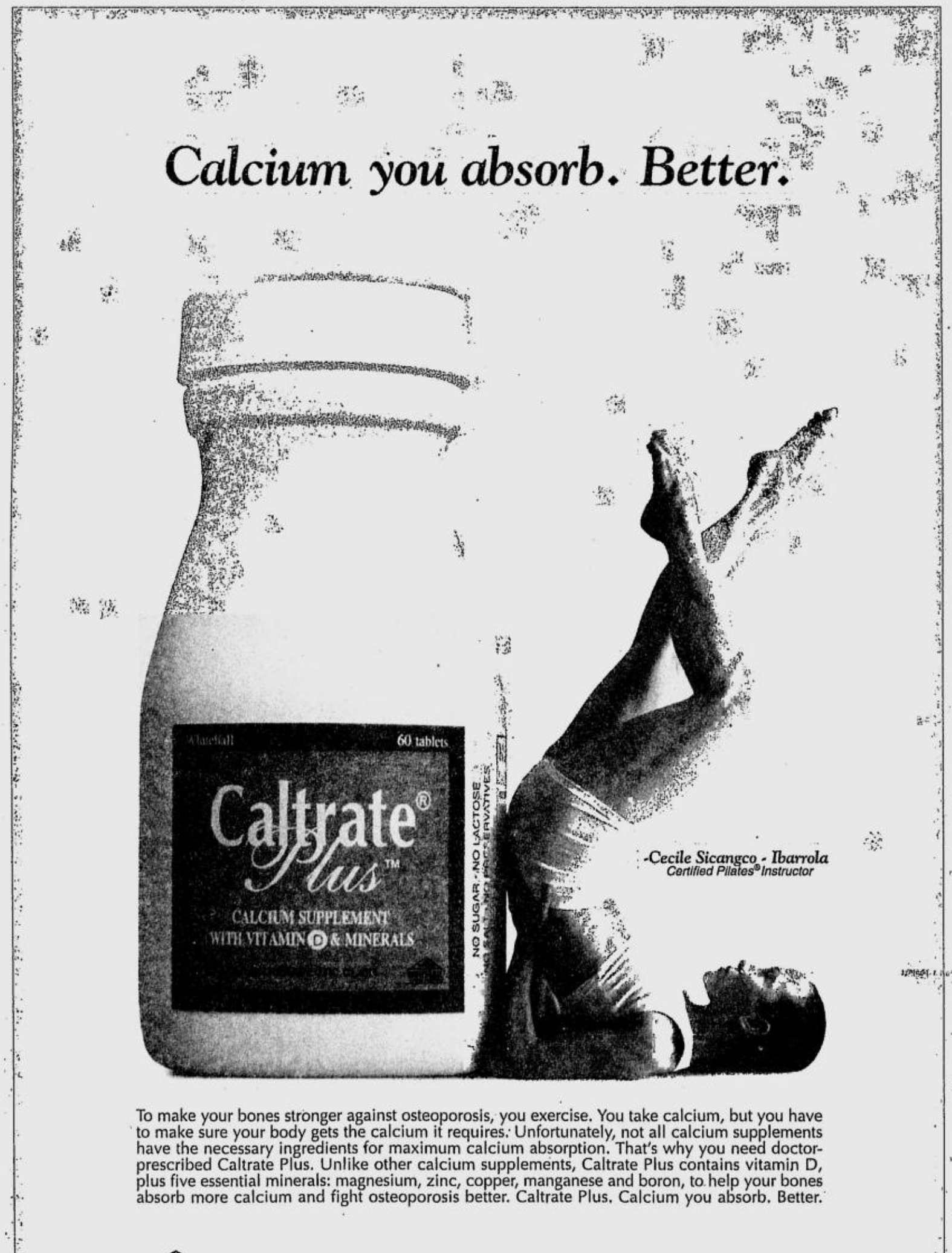
The Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation, Inc. says the incidence of osteoporosis among the elderly is on the rise and has reached "alarming levels." The OSPFI says by 2050 "majority of the osteoporosis-related fractures are expected to occur in Asia because of the increasing aging population."

In the United States, osteoporosis is considered a major public health threat since already 10 million individuals have the disease, 8 million of them are women, according to the National Osteoporosis Foundation. The foundation reports that 18 million more Americans are at risk of the disease because of low bone mass. Osteoporosis, too, is responsible for more than 1.5 million fractures among Americans.

The OSPFI is a non-profit organization that aims to curb the increasing prevalence of osteoporosis. It works with the DOH to disseminate information and increase awareness about the disease. October 20 has been declared World Osteoporosis Day.

"Based on the 1990 Far East Osteoporosis Study, only 66 percent of Asian women aged 40 and above have heard of osteoporosis. It's informative to say that women in the Philippines are least likely (4 out of 10) to know," according to OSPFI.

The organization has also tied up with consumer and pharmaceutical companies that produce milk and calcium supplements for the campaign to prevent osteoporosis. But aside from milk, the foundation insists calcium can also be taken from green and leafy vegetables, dairy byproducts and fish.



Anlene: Leading the way in bone health

ANLENE Hi-Calcium Milk, launched in 1997, pioneered and developed the market for non-fat, high calcium milk, highlighting the need for calcium in preventing osteoporosis. Before this launch, osteoporosis and calcium were both largely absent from the Filipino consciousness. Anlene was the first milk brand to emphasize this calcium requirement, linking the nutrient to the prevention of the crippling bone disease, Osteoporosis.

Anlene continued to surge ahead in the field of bone development, reformulating to follow the latest recommendations on calcium levels. Anlene was also the first to recognize that different age groups have different calcium needs, because the body's ability to absorb calcium decreases with age, Anlene Gold was introduced into the Philippine market in 1999, in recognition of this fact and was formulated to meet the corresponding demands of this age group. Anlene Gold supports the New Zealand Milk mission of providing its consumers with nutrition for every stage of life.

Anlene has further enhanced this awareness on nutrition and its benefits by highlighting the Calcium, Magnesium and Vitamin D3 link vital for optimal calcium absorption and increased bone strength. Calcium does not work alone, but needs other nutrients to optimize this function within the body. Vitamin D3 is essential for the absorption of calcium into the body, and the mineral, magnesium, helps in calcium and vitamin D3 metabolism (action) within the body.

The latest development from Anlene is the best news for consumers. Professor Edith MC Lau from the Chinese University of Hong Kong has carried out breakthrough clinical trials among Asian women over the span of two years. The study proves that drinking just two glasses of Anlene Hi-Calcium Non-Fat milk prevents bone loss in Asian women. In fact, professor Lau's study has proven that drinking Anlene everyday effectively helps prevent bone loss.

Anlene and Anlene Gold continue to lead the way in bone health development, remaining true to their pioneering mission: to educate the public on bone health and the prevention of Osteoporosis, and to provide superior nutrition for Filipinos, today and in the future.

Moreover, the Anlene Brand offers more convenience to the Filipino consumers by introducing Anlene Gold in ready-to-drink format. Available nationwide, Anlene Gold ready-to-drink Hi-Calcium Milk comes in a one-liter tetra pack.

Find out now if you're at risk

HERE are many factors that determine who will develop osteoporosis. The first step in prevention is to determine whether you are at risk. The risk factors are:

Age. The older you are, the greater your risk of osteoporosis. Your bones become weaker and less dense as you age.

Gender. Your chances of developing osteoporosis are greater if you are a woman.

Women have less bone tissue and lose bone more rapidly than men because of the changes involved in menopause.

Family History and Personal History of Fractures as an Adult. Susceptibility to fracture may be, in part, hereditary, and may also signal the likelihood of osteoporosis

Young women whose mothers have a history of vertebral fractures also seem to have reduced bone mass. A personal history of a fracture as an adult also increases your fracture risk.

Race. Caucasian and Asian women are more likely to develop osteoporosis. However, African American and Hispanic women are at significant risk for developing the disease.

Bone Structure and Body Weight. Small-boned and thin women (under 127 pounds) are at greater risk.

Menopause/Menstrual History. Normal or early menopause (brought about naturally or because of surgery) increases your risk of developing osteoporosis. In addition, women who stop menstruating before menopause because of conditions such as anorexia or bulimia, or because of excessive physical exercise, may also lose bone tissue and develop osteoporosis.

Lifestyle. Cigarette smoking, drinking too much alcohol, consuming an inadequate amount of calcium or getting little or no weight-bearing exercise, increases your chances of developing osteoporosis.

Medications/ Chronic Diseases. A significant and often overlooked risk factor in the development of osteoporosis is the use of certain medications to treat chronic medical conditions.

Medications to treat disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis, endocrine disorders (i.e. an under-active thyroid), seizure disorders and gastrointestinal diseases may have side effects that can damage bone and lead to osteoporosis.

One class of drugs that has particularly damaging effects on the skeleton is glucocorticoids. The following drugs also can cause bone loss: excessive thyroid hormones, anticonvulsants, antacids containing aluminum, gonadotropin releasing hormones (GnRH) used for treatment of endometriosis, methotrexate for cancer treatment, cyclosporine A, an immunosuppressive drug, heparin and, cholestyramine, taken to control blood cholesterol levels.

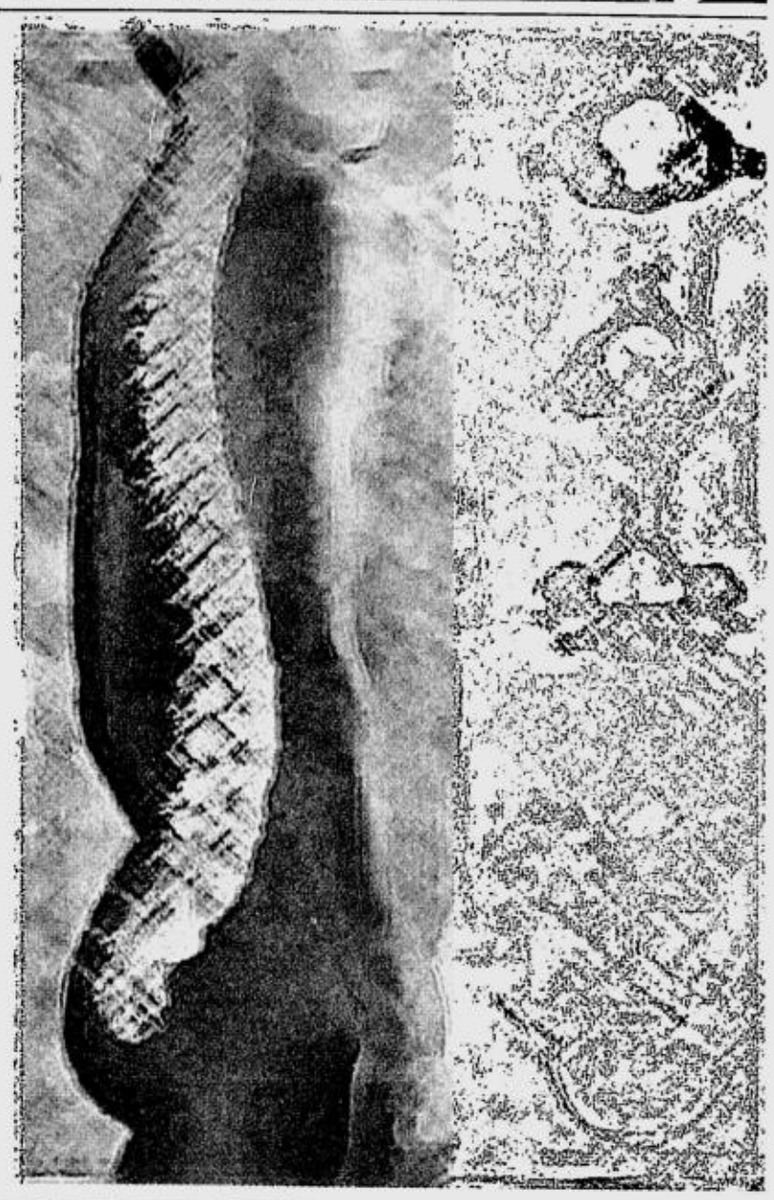
For many people, these are life saving or life-enhancing drugs and their use may be the only way to achieve a better quality of life. That's why it is important to discuss the use of these medications with your physician and not stop or alter your medication dose on your own. (*source: National Osteoporosis Foundation/ www.nof.org*)

A significant and often overlooked risk factor in the development of osteoporosis is the use of certain medications to treat chronic medical conditions

Recommended Calcium Intake

Ages	Amount mg/day
Birth – 6 months	210
6 months – 1 year	270
1-3	500
4-8	800
9-13	1300
14-18	1300
19-30	1000
31-50	1000
51-70	1200
70 or older	1200
Pregnant or Lactating	1000
14-18	1300
19-50	1000

*Source: National Academy of Sciences



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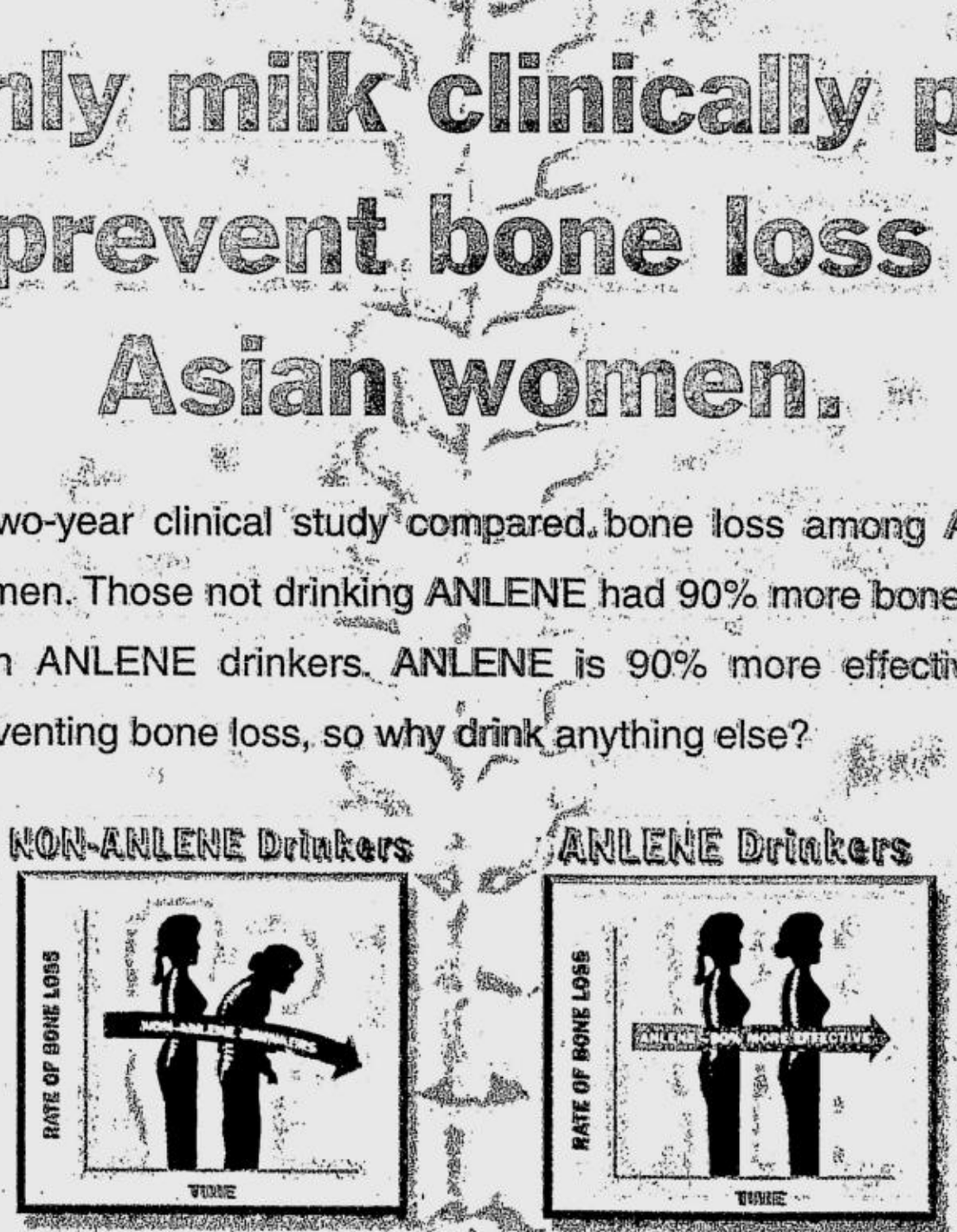

How not to shortchange the TV-film audience

BY POCHOLO CONCEPCION

FILM Year 2001 can be remembered for the emergence of Jett Jeturian, Lav Diaz and Yam Laranas, three young filmmakers who have managed to complete a respectable body of works in a short span of time.

Critical acclaim

Individually, the films of Jeturian ("Pila Balde," "Tuhog") Diaz ("Kriminal sa Barrio Concepcion," "Hubad sa Ilalim ng Buwan," and the soon-to-be-shown "Batang Westside") and Laranas ("Balahibong Pusa," "Radyo") may invite mixed reactions, although at this point it seems like Jeturian has the edge—as far as commercial acceptance and critical acclaim are concerned.

Collectively, however, they roughly belong to the same age group, that is, the current crop of filmmakers who have opted to survive by turning in works marked by intelligence, even if the trade-off (in the case of Regal) consists of tackling themes and subjects like sex, crime and violence.

But, can this generation produce similarly gifted cinematographer? One such talent is Ed Tuviera, who at 25 is already in the thick of the action as the guy behind Lightscape, a rental outfit with a reputation for having the best digital machines available for quality film and video productions.

Talking to Tuviera is like taking a crash course in why it matters to watch movie and TV productions that pass through contemporary quality standards, like using a camera equipped with digital signal processors.

According to Tuviera, it is rather easy to spot a film or video production that has utilized substandard gear.

Basic principles

"That is like shortchanging the audience," Tuviera says, "because showing a work on film or TV using lousy equipment means ignoring the basic principles of good business ethics."

Where did this passion for cinematography come from? The youngest of three siblings born to veteran TV producer Tony Tuviera confesses to having acquired a deft hand in tinkering with electronic toys and fancy gadgetry.

During his adolescence, he developed a mature understanding of how technology works.

He can't forget the day when he successfully modified his own Steadicam using aluminum tubes. This came after a similarly fruitful experiment creating a dynamo-driven animatronic out of junk parts and a motor battery.

After finishing high school, Tuviera enrolled in a technical education course abroad that included specialized training in assistant directing, cinematography, location lighting, viedo technology, and master steadicam operation—considered to be his "major."

The efforts have paid off by way of such film assignments as "Scorpio Nights," "Sidhi" and "Curacha," among other recent major projects.

Before the year ends, Tuviera's company is completing a top-the-line production unit van that will contain, in his own words, the best combined digital film and TV components fit for location shoots and television-taping requirements that conform to international standards.

ROSANNA ROCES. Star of "Curacha," one of the films cinematographer Ed Tuviera has worked on.

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To receive more information on the commands, key in HELP <COMMANDS> and send to 239

Available ringtones

TONE BARKADA	TONE GIRL	TONE PAGSINTA
TONE PANGARAP	TONE KUNGWALAKA	
TONE HAPAPA-UUHH	TONE TRIPMOBA	

Trip Apparel & Accessories by Islands Souvenirs • Trip Eyewear by 98 degrees

DINE WITH THE CAST!

Dine out with the cast! Ang top 20 winners na may pinakamaraming correct answers will dine with the cast after the premiere.

1. All Talk 'N Text, SMART Gold and SMART Buddy GSM subscribers are eligible to participate in the promo.
2. The subscriber should register in the Movie Club to join the promo. A participant may register only once. For first-time registrants, Talk 'N Text subscribers should do the ff. steps:
   1. Send a text message to the number 239 stating "JOIN MOVIE."
   2. Key in "NAME <full name>" and send to 239
   3. Key in "BIRTH <mmddyy>"and send to 239
   4. Key in "ADD <address>" and send to 239

   Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent
3. The Movie Club members can win free tickets to the advance screening of Trip by joining the Trip Trivia Quiz He/she can join by typing "PLAY TRIP" and sending it to 239. The Movie Club will text back with trivia questions which the member should answer by texting his/her choice of answers <1,2,3,4>.
4. The top 100 members with the most number of correct answers will win two free movie tickets each for the premiere showing of Trip on November 6, 2001 at SM Megamall Cinema 10, at 7 PM.
5. The top 20 members with the most number of correct answers win the privilege of having free dinner with the Trip cast at Manila Restaurant at St. Francis Square in Ortigas Center right after the premiere night.
6. The cellphone number of each registered subscriber will automatically be the official entry.
7. Deadline for sending of entries will be on 12 midnight of November 4, 2001.
8. Winners will be determined at 11 AM of Nov. 5, 2001 at the 27/F, Smart Tower Building, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City using a computer-generated system checked by and operated under the supervision of a DTI representative.
9. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
10. Winners will be notified via text message and a voice call to their registered mobile number.
11. Winners may claim their tickets on November 5 from 1 PM to 7PM at the Smart Wireless Center at SM Megamall or at the Talk 'N Text Movie Club booth at the SM Megamall on the date of the premiere night. Winners must present their active Talk 'N Text/Smart cellphone with the winning SIM numbers and valid IDs with photo.
12. All employees of Smart Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, Information Gateway Inc., and their advertising agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
13. Promo period is from October 27 to November 4, 2001.
14. Promo is for GMA only.

Download requests will be charged as follows: Help and other regular commands - P2.50; logos, ringtones, picture messages and screensavers -- P12.00.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1685, Series of 2001

DINE WITH THE CAST!

the Movie Club

Exclusive Premiere
November 6, 2001
SM Megamall Cinema 10 • 7PM
Regular showing starts Nov. 7, 2001

SPAN CINEMA Information Gateway WRR 101.9 TALK 'N TEXT POWERED BY THE SMART NETWORK

PIN Antonio (center) with from left (standing), Gary Lumapas, Jane Alcantara, Bing Dio, Sonny Mangundayao, Teresita Datu, Gerry Garcia, Racquel Cabansag, Normita Molina, (seated) Gina Mararac and Ellen Gerapusco.

Pin Antonio's new 'playroom' opens at Stamford Court

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT'S where creativity is given free rein, where it flies sky-high as fast as her fingers can snip hair off. She is Pin Antonio, darling of the perfumed set who flock to her salons. The new one is Stamford Court, a pricey-looking edifice at the corner of H. V. de la Costa and L.P. Leviste st. in Salcedo Village off Ayala ave. with tel. nos. 888-6651 and 887-5758.

There is another Salon de Manila coming up in Unit 203, 213 Tomas Morato st. in Quezon City this December, and in the very near future, one more in Alabang. Pin's new "playrooms"!

The Stamford Salon de Manila happened unexpectedly, an offer that Pin snapped up without a second thought.

Head office

"Our head office at Garden Floor, LPL Towers, 1121 Legaspi st. near Greenbelt (tel. nos. 816-7920, 817-6627 or 893-1308) takes very good care of our clientele in Legaspi Village. But Salcedo Village has a huge market consisting of condominium dwellers, executives, expats and their families."

Two other Salon de Manila branches are located at 595 Banawe st., Sta. Mesa Heights (tel. nos. 732-6014 or 732-1490 and 712-6693), and at YDG Building, 219 Katipunan ave., Blue Ridge, Quezon City (tel. nos. 439-9797 or 437-9796 and 913-5632).

It is October and Pin being Pin, she has produced another look for the last quarter of the year. "Variations of broken edges with a combination of re-texturing and color placement," is how she describes it.

"Also linear slicing, back cutting and back slicing. And no razors, please, or they'll destroy the hair," is the gospel according to Pin.

College students

It works with college students BJ Paz and Sean Lim and Wize Guys vocalist Robbie Navarro as models, their hair in tonal variations of ash. Their hair is waxed and mussed up a bit for volume and a touch of the windblown look.

Budding fashion designer Christine Palermo had her hair cut above shoulder-length and draped over half her face for a sultry, sexy look. Inez Bernardo's long hair underwent a lot of layering and a tri-color treatment. Lynn Haltland's Norwegian features are enhanced by the warm caramel coloring of her hair.

Pin is her own best model. A perky, gamin personality, she has her hair touched up with red, blue and green and she wears it with an air of having been born with colors in her hair!

CHRISTINE Palermo

INEZ Bernardo

LYNN Haltland

A passion for wildlife

BY DR. FERNANDO HOFILENA

"VANISHING Point," the latest art exhibit of architect-painter Joven Ignacio which will be mounted by the Metropolitan Art Gallery at SM Megamall, Edsa Ortigas Center Nov. 6-20, is thought-provoking.

"It's a very straight forward exhibit," Ignacio himself says. With his paintings in watercolor, he wants to create awareness of the fact that our wildlife species, our natural treasures, are rapidly vanishing.

If we don't lift a finger to preserve them, they might vanish in the not-too-distant future, leaving nothing for our children and grandchildren to enjoy and be proud of.

First foray

Ignacio's passion for wildlife was seen when he made his first foray into solo exhibits two years ago at The British Council. In "First Flight" he focused on birds. No less than famed sculptor Napoleon Abueva took notice of his "exceptional mastery of the medium and his works' strong meditative qualities."

As an exponent of the Green Architecture Movement of the United Architects of the Philippines, Ignacio lectures at the University of the Philippines and on occasion speaks in national and international conferences on such topics as green architecture and energy efficient design.

The art pieces included in "Vanishing Point" have an immediate impact on the viewer and stir the poet in him. Thus the paintings will be accompanied by poems which I have composed for the occasion.

Harmonious relationship

The piece that reveals the harmonious relationship between the tree and the living creatures around it, like the bird in the painting shown here, is interpreted through a poem entitled "The Cloak:"

In the eyes of a child it's a mystery
To the pessimist a hint of misery
When the brilliance of days departs from all
And tears from the sky are about to fall
There spreads a thin white veil
Across valleys and hills, there to prevail
Living things are all downcast
Remembering the woes of the past

"A LIFE for the Czar," watercolor.

Ignacio takes the road less traveled, bringing to the fore the least visible part of the tree in the painting called "The Dialogues of the Carmelites":

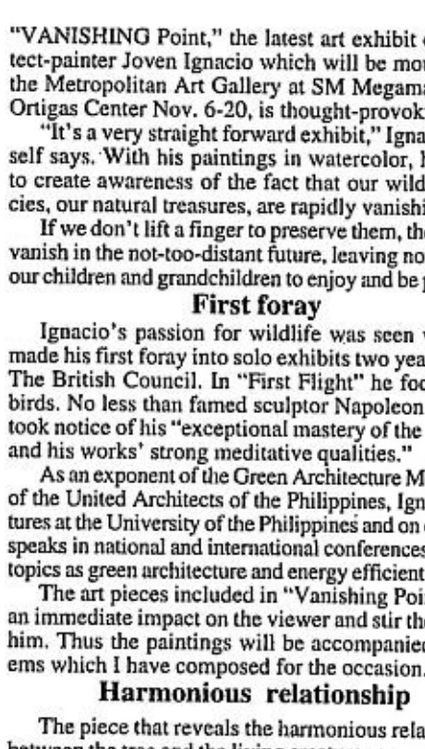
Some roots invade the realm of light
Snaking over cliffs with air hunger
In search of freedom, thrills and might
And a taste of fair and stormy weather

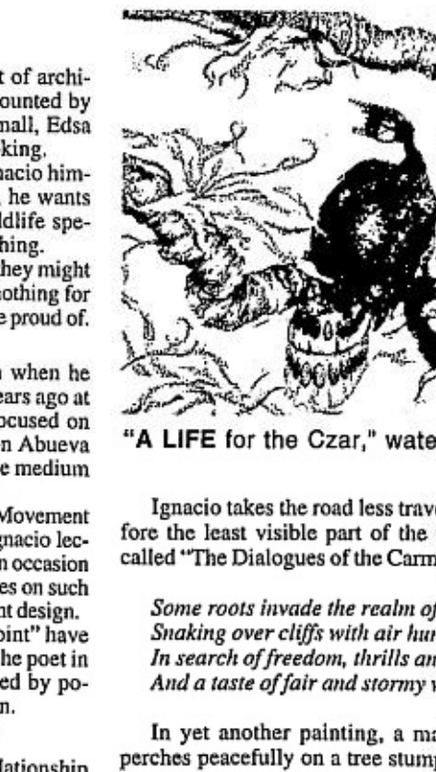
In yet another painting, a majestic Gray Heron perches peacefully on a tree stump.

The Stag King

Flailed and mangled by hurricanes
The broken branches were swept away
Leaving behind the bare old stump
Where wandering shells are wont to stay

While other trees remain fresh and green
Young, strong looking and at their best
The stump lives on serving as a roost
Where a straying bird can perch and rest





"THE CLOAK (left) and "The Stag King."

LI. "I believe that more than one universe might exist."

'THE ONE'

All-new action thriller from Jet Li

COLUMBIA Pictures proudly presents "The One," the new blockbuster starring Jet Li as both predator and prey in a "Matrix"-style action-packed sci-fi thriller set to dominate our dimension this season.

Different destinies

Imagine that you exist in different forms in parallel universes. Your alter egos live out different destinies and follow different paths, both good and evil. What would happen if one of your alter egos turned on the other and would stop at nothing to take over your world?

In "The One," parallel universes collide when a rogue agent assigned to monitor these universes begins eliminating versions of himself in each alternate reality. Assuming more power with each version he destroys, he must finally confront the one man standing between himself and his ultimate goal . . . to be The One.

In the film, alternate life waves exist in alternate universes. This is a fact that everyone at the Multiverse Bureau of Investigation accepts and upholds. Every Multiverse Agent, that is, but former Multiverse investigator Gabriel Yulaw (Li). Yulaw, as he is better known, has traversed 123 universes hunting down and destroying his alternate life forces.

As he slays each one, his remaining alter egos absorb the power and strength of those alternate life forces, gaining superhuman abilities. Yulaw continues his rampage, eradicating "himself" in each universe in an attempt to achieve his ultimate goal—to be the only one.

No one knows what the magnitude of such a phenomenon will be. No one can say what will happen to the delicate balance of the many universes if he is successful in his obsessive endeavor.

The other Gabriel Yulaw, known as Gabe, is the last alternate life wave standing between Yulaw and his ultimate goal. He is a great husband and an honored veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department.

Hot pursuit

Gabe's life is shattered when Yulaw, hotly pursued by M.V.A., enters his universe. But saving himself—the only alternative left to him—isn't as simple as killing his evil twin from another world.

Unbeknownst to Gabe, if Yulaw dies, the Multiverse Bureau of Investigation has strict orders to ensure that Gabe, too, does not become The One.

When partners Glen Morgan and James Wong first contemplated their script, Morgan had been doing some reading on alternate universes and was immediately drawn to writing about the subject. "The idea that there might be an infinite number of universes with subtle changes gave us an interesting premise," says Morgan.

Theory

"The theory is that when a black hole is created, parallel universes are created at the same time only millimeters away from us. It's a more harrowing idea than the existence of extra-terrestrials because many of us already accept that possibility."

The partners pitched their idea to Revolution Studios head Joe Roth, who immediately gave them the go-ahead. "Joe had started Revolution Studios, and they were interested in doing a sci-fi action film," says Wong. "Since Glen and I were also interested in doing that, we discussed the parallel universe idea as well as having one actor play several different parts.

"We needed to decide who would be the best opponent for the protagonist," he says. "If you use someone who is a really great fighter, that opponent would be himself. In terms of the action you have the hero fighting the antihero—dual roles played by the best martial artist in the world just magnified the potential of the action sequences."

Jet Li, who many regard as the world's greatest martial artist, was enthralled with the concept of the story and being able to play such diverse characters in one film. "I believe that more than one universe might exist," says Li. "I liked the plausibility of the idea. It was also a challenge to play three different people in the film; the same man yet different in each universe. Each man has a different energy."

Not interested

"Jet likes to make every movie special as it relates to his life," says producer Steven Chasman. "If it's just an action movie and there's nothing an audience can take away from it, then he's not interested. This movie is about the quest for power and the many situations we're all faced with in our lives. At the same time, it's about the balance between good and evil.

"The good Gabe and the evil Yulaw are not really enemies," Chasman continues. "Gabe simply doesn't want any part of what's happening to him, and Yulaw believes he's somehow making order of all the different universes."

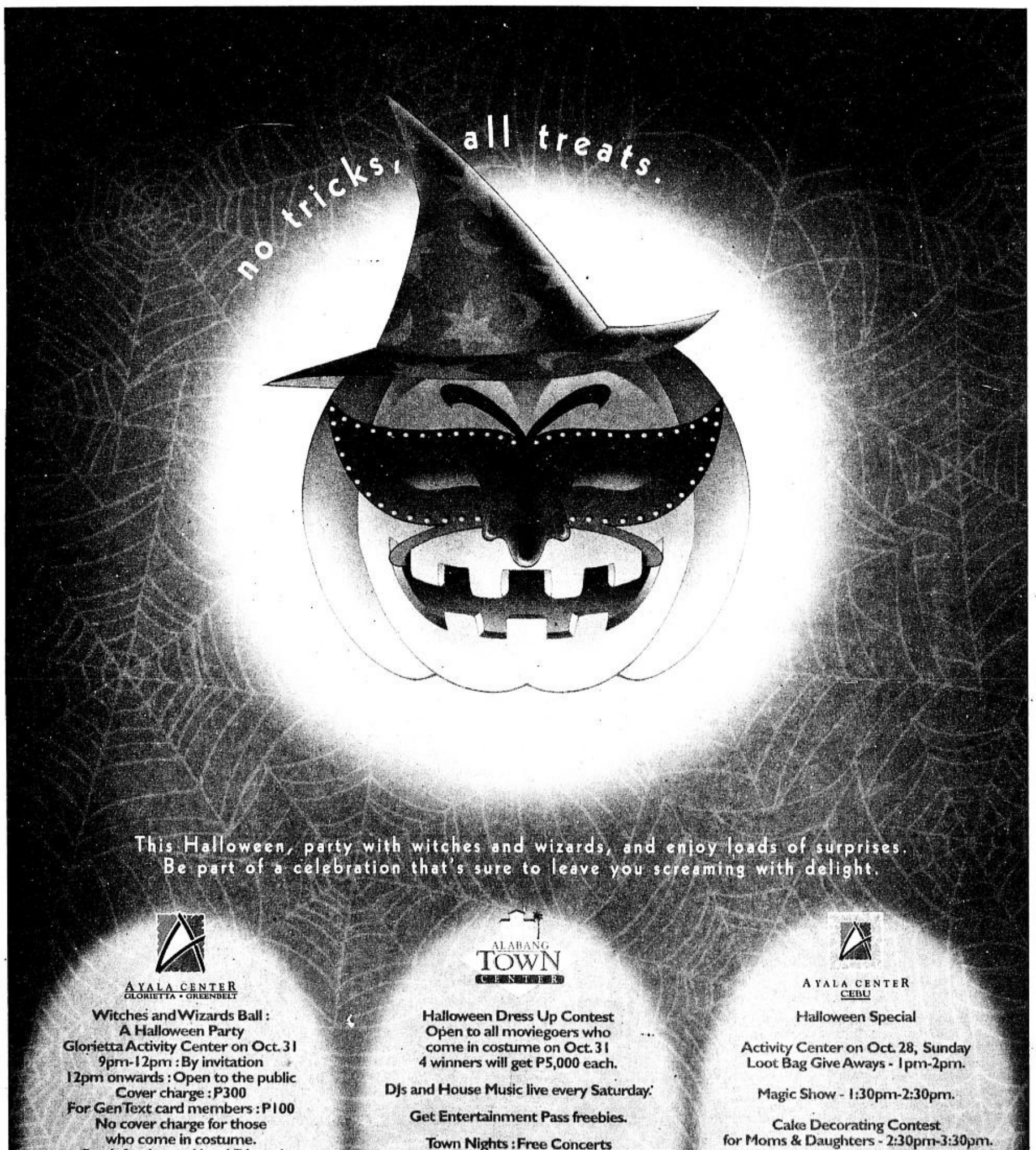
"In this case, Gabe is a balanced human with a wife, a job, and even a dog he loves," says Li. "He cannot understand what is happening to him as the energy force from his counterparts in other universes invade his body. He does not want to be Superman.

"The evil Yulaw cannot seem to stop himself as he continues on his rampage; as he kills he is overcome by a high and his power grows. But you must like both characters to play them well, even the bad guy."

Morgan poses the same question put to him throughout filming: "Are Gabe and Yulaw the same person? If we did our job well, the audience will not only see a movie with terrific action, but they'll walk out asking, 'What is the other me like in another universe?' That's the same question put before Gabe, but he doesn't have time to contemplate the answer.

"There cannot be night without day or good without bad," he continues. "We must accept the darker side of ourselves. It's just there. But Yulaw won't accept this fact so he wants to become God and have it all. Jet brought that overall life view to the project."

"The One" is a Columbia Pictures film opening soon in Metro Manila.



Britney Spears shines on Channel [V] International

THE REIGNING "Queen of Teen Pop," Britney Spears shines this November on Channel [V] Int'l., with five special shows that'll surely delight all of her fans.

With barely three years in the music biz, from '98 to 2001, Britney's career rocketed from pop starlet to mega stardom.

Debut single and album

Britney's debut single and album "Baby One More Time" in '98, smashed the Billboard Charts at No.1, making her the first ever female artist to achieve this kind of success.

Her second album "Oops! I Did It Again" in 2000, again reached No.1 worldwide. This year, Britney shows a mature side of her with her latest album "Britney," taking on a very "Madonna" theatrical stance with new songs reflecting the changes in her life and development from a sweet teenage girl to a sexy young woman.

Join veejay Asha in her exclusive chat with the princess of pop and see just how quickly Britney grew from a tot to hot in just over a year in "Asha Meets Britney" on Channel [V] Int'l., on Friday, Nov. 2 at 5 p.m. (With replays on Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 12 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m.)

Personal questions

This time the fans get to ask personal questions with their favorite star in "An Audience with Britney Spears" on Channel [V] Int'l., on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. (With replays on Thursday, Nov. 8 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 10 at 2 p.m.)

Channel [V] Int'l. caught up with Britney in Australia, and she takes us through her meteoric rise to fame in "Speakeasy" on Saturday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. (With replay on Sunday, Nov. 11 at 3 p.m.)

Then, grab your grass skirts and crack open some coconuts as Channel [V] Int'l., joins Britney for her breath-taking show on the tropical island of Oahu in "Britney, Live in Hawaii" on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. (With replays on Thursday, Nov. 22 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 24 at 2 p.m.)

If you haven't had enough of Channel [V]'s "Chosen One" this month, then tune in on the month-ending tribute to Britney in "Time Out with Britney" for tons of never-seen-before footage on Sunday, Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. (With replays on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 12 a.m. and Thursday, Nov. 29 at 5:30 p.m.)

SPEARS. From pop starlet to mega stardom.

SaturdaySPECIAL

METHYL SALICYLATE
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SALONPAS
MEDICATED PLASTER
Pains

HOLLYWOOD IN WARTIME

National mood guides US filmmakers' response in times of crisis

SCHWARZENEGGER. The showing of his latest film, "Collateral Damage," has been postponed indefinitely due to elements related to terrorism and violence.

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BY DAVID GERMAIN

LOS ANGELES—In World War II, James Stewart and Clark Gable flew bombing missions, John Ford, Frank Capra and John Huston made military documentaries, and studios churned out morale-boosting films for the home front.

Arena

During Vietnam, Jane Fonda went to Hanoi, Robert Altman used the Korean War as the arena for his anti-Vietnam film "M*A*S*H," and anti-hero movies such as "Easy Rider" and "Midnight Cowboy" became beacons of American unrest.

Always a cultural barometer, Hollywood has responded only in small ways so far to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Studios have delayed touchy films, producers have shelved terrorism projects, celebrities have raised money for victims.

As in all past US military actions, it will likely take years before Hollywood films deal meaningfully with recent events.

"There is such a gigantic sadness connected to what happened on Sept. 11 that movies about it would be

NATIONAL/p. E2

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Educational show debuts on Cagayan de Oro TV today

By Nestor U. Torre

EDUCATIONAL television shows have been produced and telecast in the Philippines since the 1960s (the Ateneo's Educational TV Center was one of the pioneers in this regard), but most of them have been produced in Metro Manila, in Tagalog or English.

Distinction

Today from 10 to 11 a.m., a new educational show will make its debut on the tube with a special distinction: it is in Visayan, and it is being produced, taped and telecast in Cagayan de Oro City.

The new show, "Kool Iskul" will be shown on COC TV 39, Cagayan de Oro's new educational channel, and is being initiated and supported by Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. and Banco Filipino.

"Kool Iskul" was conceptualized by Sen. Pimentel after meeting with outstanding teachers in Cagayan de Oro, whom he honors annually with special awards. They discussed the educational needs of the Northern Mindanao region and decided that a locally produced educational TV show would be very helpful in supplementing what students were learning in the classroom.

With the help of Banco Filipino and other sponsors, Sen. Pimentel was able to get the pioneering project organized three months ago, with his wife, veteran composer and theater producer Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel on top of things as executive producer.

First episodes

Last month, the first episodes of the new TV show were taped, with the help of some TV production staffers from Manila, in close coordination with detailed lesson plans worked out by the members of a special advisory committee of outstanding teachers.

The weekly lessons in English, Math, Science and Values enhance the classroom lessons for that particular period. It was decided to start with lessons for Grades 5 and 6, and to use Cagayan de Oro-based TV teachers and students.

After several practice sessions, the best TV teachers were selected and trained and 20 bright and personable children were chosen from 150 auditionees to comprise the first group of 20 TV students, who interact with the TV teachers and the show's other resource persons.

Teaching style

The teaching style is substantial without being stodgy, and entertaining without being trivial. Numerous visual aids are supplied in the form of film and video clips, artwork, pull-out animation and other inexpensive yet vivid visualizations, in keeping with the show's modest resources but great desire to be of help to Grade 5 and 6 students in the region.

In addition, the program makes extensive use of dramatizations and musical numbers to illustrate some teaching points. Ms Pimentel herself composed the show's lively theme song. A special feature is a weekly tribute to an outstanding teacher.

MS. Loudes 'Bing' Pimentel is the program's executive producer.

SENATOR Pimentel with some of the bright and personable children who appear on "Kool Iskul."

It is hoped that, starting next school year, other educational programs for different levels in grade school and high school can be added to the production schedule, for the project of Senator Pimentel and Banco Filipino to be of help to many more students.

Hosts

"Kool Iskul" is hosted by Jewel L. Pimentel, Andy Bais and Rito Asilo.

Credits: Executive producer, Ms Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel. Associate director, Pat Perez. Scriptwriter, Ametta Suarez-Taguchi. Production by Remejus Inc. Module producers, Andy Bais and Rito Asilo.

TV teachers, Candice Racoma, Jocel Dimacutac, Anniemer Lopez, Jackie Valencia, Noel Pit, Winston Gallenero and others.

TV students, Gwen Boloron, Crystal Balili, Maxine Monasterio, Ma. Krizzia Borromeo, Camille Tacastacas, Kristel Galve, Titus Monterde, Luke and Terrence Pakiño, Marie Kris Boco, Jan Awitin, Angelie Rose Palacios, Marvin Almonte, Irl Dumalogdog, Jude Nitcha, Johnson Ocol-Ocol, Raisah Parrel, Mara Andaya, and others.

Teachers' Committee, Ms Visminda Ravara, Ellen Tumanda, Emmanuel Alingig, Pepa Pontillas, Benjie Baang. Musical arrangers, Leo Quinito and Dave Alba.

Production staffers

Production staffers, Tachi Parrel, Jeremy Bayucot, Cookie Sevandal, Dodong Biñas, Rhodora Rosetti, Juliet Doroin, Alex Lim, Roel Caangay, Paul Requiton, Josephine Casinillo, Catherine Pacana, Ann Caballero, Lyndon Caballero.

Artists, Silvano Obsioma Jr., Art Ramos, May Anniver Flores, Loraine Alquitela, Eric Esteva. Drivers, Jones Jumawan, Noel Sevandal, Isagani Sevandal, Lolong Guardalupe.

All of these people are working together to make "Kool Iskul" a lively and substantial ETV program for the benefit, not just of students in Cagayan de Oro City, but also of Grade 5 and 6 pupils in the other places in Mindanao and the Visayas that can be reached by COC TV 39's strong broadcast signal.

Star Records talents reap honors at 14th Awit Awards

BANAWA. Banner year.

STAR Records roster of artists and producers were big winners at the recently-concluded Awit Awards, winning seven awards in a diverse number of categories.

Singer-actress

Upcoming singer-actress Carol Banawa caps a banner year of projects—the movie "Tanging Yaman" and teleserye "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" among them—with an award for best-produced record of the year with "Iingatan Ka." "Iingatan Ka," a cut from her album, was first released in April, 2000.

"Iingatan Ka" is familiar to TV viewers as the theme of ABS-CBN's primetime teleserye "Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka." The self-titled album has sold enough copies to reach Gold Record status.

An album made to celebrate the Jubilee Year was in itself celebrated by the Awit Awards judges when "The Jubilee Song" from the Star Records release "Iubilaeum 2000... In the Fullness of Time" won as Best Inspirational/Religious Recording.

The song is the album's carrier single and is performed by Jamie Rivera, who has emerged as the country's top interpreter of inspirational songs because of this track. To date, the "Iubilaeum 2000" album has reached Quintuple Platinum status.

Star Records introduced a new career to superstar Cesar Montano—and received an Awit Award for it when "Sa Pagpatak ng Ulan," the carrier single from Cesar's debut album "Subok Lang" won the Best Performance by a New Male Recording Artist plum. To date, the acoustically-driven album has received a Gold Record award.

Girl group

One of the most requested songs this year is also an Awit Award-winner for Star Records. "Di Ko Kaya" by girl group Teenhearts won the Best Performance By A New Duo Or Group Recording Artist Award, not a bad coup for a group of 16-year old singers.

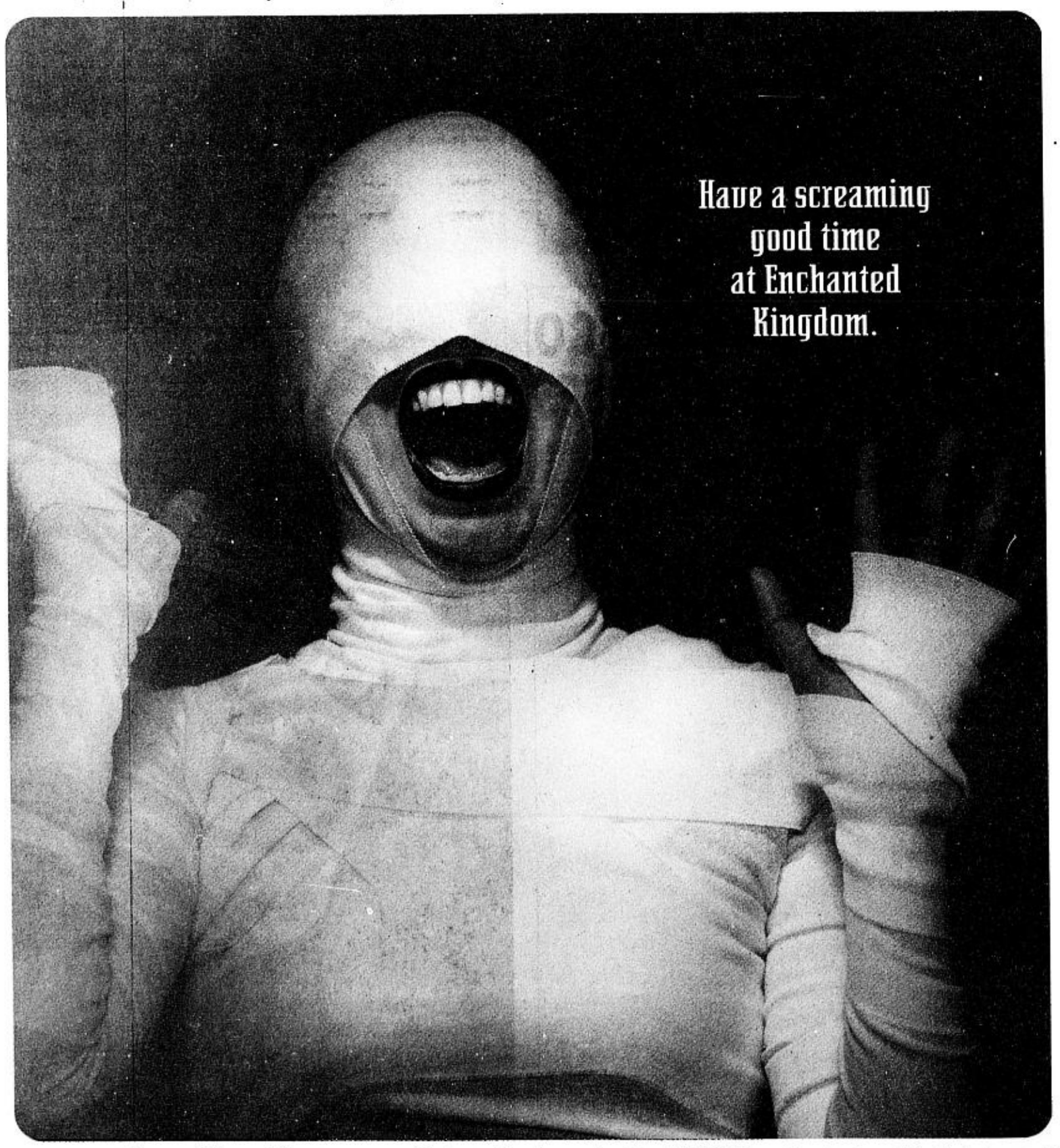
Annie Nepomuceno, the sole female member of the highly-regarded vocal group III of a Kind won the Best Vocal Arrangement award for her group's single "Wala Pa Rin," the carrier single of their debut album "Groove-A-Pella" under Premium Star Records.

A sexy film siren and a pair of remix masters won a Best Remix Recording award when *"Ay, Ay, Ay Pag-Ibig,"* the carrier single of Ara Mina's self-titled debut album under Star Records, won for Rommel Villarico and Idonnah Lopez.

Rommel and Idonnah are an experienced music producing team, having also masterminded Jolina Magdangal's top-selling "Red Alert" remix album.

A song about life in prison by a prison evangelist received the Best Country-Ballad Recording Awit Award. "Rehas Na Bakal" was the carrier single of Rev. Orlando Nuevo's debut album under Star Records. A hopeful record reflecting Nuevo's experiences and the central message of hope, "Rehas na Bakal" was produced by Alex Catedrilla.

The Awit Awards is a production of the Philippine Association of Recording Industry (PARI), the record industry association made up of most major and independent labels. The awards celebrate achievements in Original Pilipino Music.



When was the last time you screamed at the top of your lungs, and nobody minded? Now's your chance to release all that pent-up energy, at Enchanted Kingdom's Halloween bash. Get loud and proud as your top bands serve up a dose of heart-pounding music, and your favorite DJs give you a monster mix of tunes to get your feet moving. And for the kids, there's animated fun, with the release of Charlotte's Web video and Pikachu mascot appearance. It's Halloween fun the way only Enchanted Kingdom can give it. So step right up for some monstrous good times.

Enchanted Kingdom

NU 107's Party Monsters On The Loose 2
Oct 27, 4-9 pm, Launch Pad
Listen to NU 107 for a chance to win a free EK pass to watch five hours of rock music from Slapshock, Imago, Battery, The Brownbeat All-Stars, and Sandwich.
RX 93.1's Scream All You Want
Oct 28, 5:30-9:30 pm, Brooklyn
Your favorite DJs and newscasters take centerstage with up-and-coming band 9mm, to give you a wild dance party with face-painting and fortune-telling sessions on the side.

Charlotte's Web video release
Oct 31, 4 pm, Bandstand
The animated musical adaptation of EB White's best-selling novel is now on video, and we're celebrating with a variety show. Join fun games too, and win exciting prizes!
Pikachu mascot appearance
Oct 31, 3:00-3:30 pm and 5:00-5:30 pm, Bandstand
Let the kids get up close and personal with one of the ever-popular Pokemon characters. He'll jive, high-five, and even pose with the kids for pictures.

It's Back! The Lucky Visitor of the Day
Visit on any of the above dates, and you can win five VIP passes so you and your friends don't have to line up, plus free P500 in Wizard Money, and a souvenir photo with the Wizard!

SPECIAL HALLOWEEN SCHEDULE
Oct 31 to Nov 4, 10 am to 10 pm
Grand fireworks display at 9 pm

PEPSI · Wrigley's Juicy Fruit · Knott's · NU 107 · tropical ice

Makati Sales Office: Amtrust Leisure Corporation G/F, Tropical Palms Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City • Park Address: Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Tel. Nos: 830-2111 to 17, 843-6073 to 78. Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets: National Bookstore Branches, Tower Records (Makati, Alabang), Robinson's Dept. Stores (Galleria, Manila), Ticketworld Head Office.

National mood . . . (From page E1)

difficult for a filmmaker to stomach now," said Rod Lurie, director of "The Last Castle," a military-prison drama that opened last week. "I think it will take a while and a lot of distance. It may take a decade."

Immediate reaction

After Pearl Harbor, an immediate reaction in Hollywood was to churn out combat dramas as propaganda depicting the US entry into the war as a noble cause. More definitive films that put a human face on World War II appeared late in the war and in the years after with "The Story of G.I. Joe," "The Sands of Iwo Jima," "Twelve O'Clock High" and the homecoming drama "The Best Years of Our Lives."

Hollywood barely touched Vietnam during the war itself, turning out only one notable film, John Wayne's woeful "The Green Berets," with its infamous ending gaffe in which the sun sets in the east.

But as Vietnam triggered anti-war protests, filmmakers such as Mike Nichols with "Catch-22" and Altman with "M*A*S*H" used past wars to make topical satires. Altman notes he deliberately omitted references to the Korean War in "M*A*S*H," which he meant as a condemnation of the Vietnam War.

"If you look at that film, there's no mention of what war it is," said Altman, adding that the studio made him put a disclaimer at the beginning that "M*A*S*H" was set in Korea. "If you ask people now what 'M*A*S*H' was about, 75 to 80 percent would say it was Vietnam."

Reviled

Fonda was reviled by many Americans for visiting Hanoi in 1972, and she salted the wound several years later by winning her second Oscar for "Coming Home," about a disabled Vietnam vet. In 1988, she apologized to veterans for some of her actions during the Hanoi trip.

"Coming Home" was among a crop of provocative Vietnam movies that appeared in the late 1970s, including "The Deer Hunter," "Go Tell the Spartans," "The Boys in Company C" and "Apocalypse Now." Another surge came in the 1980s with Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket" and Oliver Stone's "Platoon" and "Born on the Fourth of July."

Similarly, the first major conflict of the film age, World War I, was not examined seriously on film until years afterward. Cheerleading patriotic movies were made during the war. Not until the 1920s and 1930s did probing World War I films emerge, including "The Big Parade" and "All Quiet on the Western Front."

Maverick filmmaker Samuel Fuller produced the challenging Korean War examinations "The Steel Helmet" and "Fixed Bayonets" during the conflict. But it was years before mainstream films such as "Pork Chop Hill" and "The Bridges at Toko-Ri" seriously tackled that war.

A handful of movies have been set in the Persian Gulf War, most notably "Courage Under Fire" and "Three Kings."

Sluggish industry

Now, if Hollywood wanted to explore the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in a movie, it would take a long time. In today's sluggish industry, substantive films can take two years or more from conception to release. Projects could be quickly outdated.

"Hollywood, just like the book-publishing world, is at a standstill," said Frank McAdams, author of "The American War Film: History and Hollywood," a book due out next spring. "They're just scratching their heads about what they're going to do."

Television can respond rapidly. "The West Wing" aired an episode about the White House dealing with a terrorism crisis, a show written and shot just three weeks after the attacks.

So far, however, movies and television have responded mainly by postponing or editing some projects. Arnold Schwarzenegger's terrorism film "Collateral Damage," due in theaters this month, was delayed indefinitely. So was an episode of CBS' new spy series "The Agency." Trade-center images were cut from the film comedy "Serendipity" and an episode of TV's "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

Trade Center

"Nobody wants a film that even shows a picture of the trade center," said Howard Suber, a film historian at the University of California, Los Angeles. "That's like showing pictures of the dead to the grieving widow."

Producer Dan Paulson, who made the terrorist flick "Passenger 57," shelved a project about Osama bin Laden. Paulson had been about to shop it around for financing when the attacks happened.

"There will be a time when we're poised and ready again for the Osama project, but not now," Paulson said. "Right now, I'd like to go out and pitch romantic comedies, because it's sheer escapist fare."

With its swift studio system in World War II, the industry produced such timely battle films as "Wake Island," "Bataan," "Guadalcanal Diary" and "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo."

But most films during World War II were meant to take people's minds off the fighting and lift morale. Abbott and Costello, who starred in the military comedies "Buck Privates" and "In the Navy" just before Pearl Harbor, stuck mostly to non-war romps for the duration.

James Cagney hoofed it through the red, white and blue musical "Yankee Doodle Dandy" in 1942. A year later, its director, Michael Curtiz, used the periphery of the war as backdrop for one of the most romantic films ever, "Casablanca."

Struggles on the home front were handled in "Mrs. Miniver," "The Human Comedy" and "Since You Went Away."

Besides Stewart and Gable, thousands of Hollywood players served in the military.

Plane crash

Gable's wife, Carole Lombard, died in a plane crash returning home from a war-bond tour. Leslie Howard (Ashley Wilkes in "Gone With the Wind"), who had gone home to England to make films on behalf of the war effort, died when his plane was shot down by Nazi fighters.

Celebrities embarked on USO tours to entertain troops. Military documentaries by Capra and Ford won Academy Awards. The Oscars were broadcast to US troops on Armed Forces Radio. *AP*

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO KILL THE ONE YOU CAN SEE, BUT ALSO THE 28 YOU CAN'T.

Even if you keep your place spotless, you're bound to see a cockroach or two scurrying around. And even if you manage to stop on them, there are plenty more where they came from. Hidden away where you can't see are cockroach egg cases like the one above. Each one will hatch up to 28 new roaches. Most sprays are useless against them. Only New Baygon Cockroach killer is proven to penetrate the egg's tough outer shell. And it has Preventol to stop the spread of cockroach germs which bring harmful disease into the home.

New Baygon Cockroach Killer. Because if you don't stop the eggs, you don't stop the roaches. **IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT BAYGON.**

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Angelu de Leon headlines 'Larawan' series

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

ANGELU de Leon will be the featured artist in GMA's "Larawan" starting Oct. 31 at 10 p.m. She will appear in four dramas which also star Matthew Mendoza, Bojo Molina, Bernadette Allyson, Carlos Morales, Rustom Padilla and Bobby Andrews. This is the first time Angelu will be appearing with Bobby since their love team disintegrated when Angelu got pregnant with her first baby.

Understandably, there was some apprehension in the studio when the two showed up for the taping. Many thought there would be awkward moments and the shoot would be difficult. Well, the two surprised everybody when they appeared quite relaxed with each other. They behaved like they were good friends.

Angelu explained that she and Bobby had already ironed out their differences after a long talk. So there was no need to worry;

Although the actress prefaced the press lunch with a cautionary "Let's not dwell on the past," the entertainment writers had lots of questions about her love life. Angelu did not disappoint, as always. She's one star who comes up with interesting answers, interesting because she does not give standard replies.

She admits making two major mistakes by getting involved with two undesirable individuals, but she doesn't look at her two kids as mistakes. She adds that the relationships didn't work out because "they didn't love me as much as I loved them." Angelu refused to identify the father of her second child because he's not from show biz and is a very private person.

DE LEON. Two mistakes.

'BAND OF BROTHERS.' Premieres on HBO tonight at 9 p.m.

She doesn't want financial support from the two men in her life because she says she can manage on her own. That's how independent the actress is, one reason she says why marriage is still a distant plan for her. Right now, she's enjoying being alone with her kids. She relishes the idea of waking up alone in bed and being a single mom to her children.

Star TV's side

Star TV's Dave Ilagan invited some writers to dinner last Tuesday to explain why his company dropped Sky Cable and Home starting Oct. 19. He said the merged companies owe Star some $160 million and he has not received any proposal on how the debt will be paid. He said it was normal for accounts to go unpaid for as much as five months but not 10 months, as in the case of the money owed the National Geographic Channel.

Regarding the claim that Star is requiring Sky/Home to pay the witholding tax owed the government, he says this is the practice in all places where they do business. He stressed that such an arrangement is in the agreement they signed with the cable companies.

On the claim that they are bullying the channels to buy an entire bundle, Dave countered that they r'e not. Sky/Home can buy single programs if they like. However, the per-subscriber cost will be higher. As in other businesses, the more products you buy, the lower the unit cost

Dave is hoping that they can work out a suitable arrangement. He has received reports that there is a business plan that will be put in effect in January next year. That may include a payment plan for Star TV, which is all he's asking for, a proposal to settle past debts.

What's clear in this impasse is that it's the consumers who suffer. Ironically, the removal of Star's seven channels came with the increase in subscription rate for Home. We hear that Sky is also planning to increase its rates. With these developments, some subscribers may just find it more convenient to shift to Destiny, which carries most of Sky/Home's channels plus Star TV's seven channels.

'Band of Brothers' contest

"Band of Brothers," the $120 million ten-part miniseries based on Stephen Ambrose's nonfiction bestseller about a World War II US army unit, premieres tonight at 9 on HBO. Executive-produced by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, the succeeding episodes will be aired every Tuesday also at 9 p.m.

'Switching Channels" readers can win premium items from HBO by watching the miniseries and answering questions about the episodes. There will be seven winners for each episode. Today, we are running questions related to Episodes 1 and 2 which air tonight and Episode 3 which airs on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

Here are the questions:

Episode 1

1."Band of Brothers" centers on a group of World War II paratroopers known as: a. **Screaming Eagles** b. **Easy Company** c. **Alpha Company**

2.What actor from the TV series "Friends" is also featured in the miniseries: a. **Matt Leblanc** b. **David Schwimmer** c. **Matthew Perry**

3.On what other HBO miniseries did Tom Hanks serve as executive producer?: a. **"From the Earth to the Moon"** b. **"The Corner"** c. **"Sex and the City"**

Episode 2

1.Which of the following actors plays Herbert M. Sobel, the officer who trains the first batch of paratroopers: a. **Neal McDonough** b. **David Schwimmer** c. **Donnie Wahlberg**

2.Which of the following officers was chosen to lead the successful attack on a fortified German artillery position?: a. **Winters** b. **Sobel** c. **Liption**

3.Each episode starts with a testimonial from: a. **WWII veterans** b. **News reporters** c. **Historians**

Episode 3

1.Which part of the body was Winters shot during his battle in Carentian, France?: a. **Back** b. **Leg** c. **Arm**

2.How many men did Easy Company lose on June 29, 1944?: a. **100** b. **61** c. **46**

3.Private Blith became _____ momentarily in this episode: a. **Deaf** b. **Crazy** c. **Blind**

Send your answers to:

Switching Channels "Band of Brothers" Contest

P.O. Box 512 Greenhills Post Office

San Juan, Metro Manila 1502

Entries must be postmarked on or before Nov. 3 to qualify. Winners will be announced on Nov. 10.

Join the Family Christmas Build

and make a difference, one family at a time.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Best-made movies through the years

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

WHAT are the best films ever made? It depends *when* you ask the question.

In 1952, Sight and Sound magazine polled movie critics and came up with a seminal list that included "Citizen Kane," "The Bicycle Thief," "Grand Illusion," "Casablanca" and "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari."

Quality

What quality did these films have in common? Critics at the time regarded the highest cinematic achievement as successfully attempting whatever wasn't conventional.

In 1962, however, the old film masters cited in the first survey were drastically replaced by Fellini, Jean Luc Godard and Michelangelo Antonioni. Fortunately for Orson Welles, his "Citizen Kane" still topped the revised list.

In 1972, Ingmar Bergman's films joined the updated list. In 1982, "Citizen Kane" was joined by two other American productions, "Vertigo" by Alfred Hitchcock, and the John Wayne western, "The Searchers."

More traditional

By 1982, the list was more than half American. In 1992, the choices became more traditional, preferring the classic movies of old . This underscored the feeling that new filmmakers couldn't match the brilliance of older directors like Stanley Kubrick and Ingmar Bergman when *they* were starting their careers.

But the filmmakers themselves were polled, and recent classics were once again cited. In 2002, another list will be drawn up, and changes will once more indicate shifting and evolving film tastes.

Constant choices

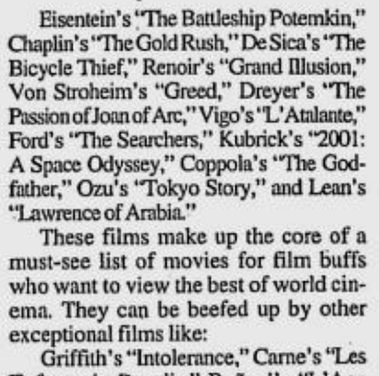
Which films have remained constant choices through the decades? Welles' "Citizen Kane" keeps ending up on top, and other consistent choices include: Eisentein's "The Battleship Potemkin," Chaplin's "The Gold Rush," De Sica's "The Bicycle Thief," Renoir's "Grand Illusion," Von Stroheim's "Greed," Dreyer's "The Passion of Joan of Arc," Vigo's "L'Atalante," Ford's "The Searchers," Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey," Coppola's "The Godfather," Ozu's "Tokyo Story," and Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia."

These films make up the core of a must-see list of movies for film buffs who want to view the best of world cinema. They can be beefed up by other exceptional films like:

Griffith's "Intolerance," Carne's "Les Enfants du Paradis," Buñuel's "L'Age d'Or," Ray's "Pather Panchali," Keaton's "The General," Kurosawa's "Ikiru," Reed's "The Third Man," Fellini's "La Strada" and Buñuel's "Viridiana."

Periodic preferences

Periodic preferences may emerge, but these classic films have consistently set a high standard for filmmaking for new generations of moviemakers to aspire to. Even film buffs who have no intention of making movies will find their horizons expanding after viewing these seminal masterpieces of world cinema.



CHAPLIN. Star of "The Gold Rush" and other classic screen comedies.

From beauty 'queendom' to film stardom

BY BEHN CERVANTES

THE PHILIPPINES is introduced to a new beauty queen or a prestigious titleholder year after year. Our people, it appears, do not tire of admiring the latest beauty queen. Despite the many coveted titles already existing, there are still more beauty queens crowned the "fairest of them all" in new contests concocted by business enterprises.

Fair damsels

All of them exploit man's desire to behold fair damsels, preferably of the 5'6" or taller variety, with measurements that taper 36"-24"-36".

There are various reasons why such beauties should be found on a yearly basis. Some are needed to proudly represent our country in international contests, while others are chosen to espouse the attractions of our tourist spots, the importance of ecological concerns or the virtues of cotton—yes the fabric.

The most famous contest of them all even claims to choose "the most beautiful girl in the whole universe." Imagine that? Of course, we have yet to see the interplanetary candidates from Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, the Moon or the Sun!

Before that cosmic expansion, it was only the most beautiful young (usually between 17-23 years old) woman in the world, or the planet Earth. The domestic version of that search is necessarily the quest for "the most beautiful girl in the Philippines." However, already we have many beautiful titleholders who are Miss, Mutya, Binibining, Queen or Princess of this that and the other. Every *fiesta* discovers the latest beauty to personify the desirable virtues of a province, city, or town! There is even a Miss Gay Philippines. The more, the merrier? No, the gayer!

Changing society

Liberated women have long booed such contests. These titles do not truly represent the virtues of women in a changing society or developing world. The contests parade women like prize cattle in farm carnivals, they claim. These are nothing more than business ventures to sell cosmetics, bathing suits and other products that claim to enhance women's natural beauty.

Not fair, retort contestants. They serve the interests of the country! Besides, what harm do they do anyone? They love making others happy. It is their body and also their decision to vie for those titles. It's a free country!

In response to the accusation that such contests are irrelevant in the light of the many problems confronting humanity, pretty damsels of later vintage are plied with questions

DIAZ AND MARQUEZ. Winners of international titles turned movie stars.

that test their intelligence, wit and/or mastery of grammar.

Besides, how can you judge beauty when that perception is a subjective one? Beauty is in the beholder's eyes, right? And, what happened to inner beauty? If the gauge is merely physical, where is the justice in such a contest?

Different standards

We are aware that we are all created equal except that some are created more equal than others? Should the Chinese standard be pitted against the African notion of the beautiful? Are blue eyes more beautiful than brown or black? Is milky-white skin more beautiful than *kayumanggi* or the ebony kind? Is straight hair more fashionable than naturally kinky hair?

Don't Southeast Asia, Europe, the Americas and the Middle East have varying beauty standards? How about the Samoans, the Tongans or the Micronesians and their love for ample women? What is an Alaskan's notion of a beautiful woman?

Of course, the global standard of a beautiful woman is set by western aesthetics, trends and fashion, so contests crown the delirious winner who measures up to contemporary

The global standard of a beautiful woman is set by western aesthetics, so contests crown the delirious winner who measures up to contemporary

western tastes. Politics also enter the picture, some sour losers complain.

Venezuela has had many winners because it has put up a "school" that trains prospective contestants as well as investing in plastic surgery to improve their looks and other physical attributes.

Clearly, the business factor is foremost in these contests. It is said that one billion people watch the annual Miss Universe finals. That only means that those television advertisements pay good money for global exposure. Yes, money makes the world go round, sang the Emcee in "Cabaret." Despite the many criticisms targeted at beauty contests, there is a constant desire to nurture a new crop of homegrown and long-legged damsels for local or world exposure. There is extra excitement when the comely representative brings home the bacon, oops the crown from those international contests.

Traffic

The more Third World the country is, the greater the response, we have noted. I know of no time when the traffic of San Francisco or New York was re-routed for the arrival of Miss America, or Miss Universe, for that matter. Here such a victorious return is of national importance, and poverty and corruption forgotten in the meantime.

The Philippines has long been proud that its titleholders are beautiful by international standards. After all, our misses are a fine mixture of East and West thus having the height, measurements and looks that are admired internationally. In conduct, they exude a delicate blend of modern western ways that are diffused by a tinge of the conservative Asian conduct.

Besides, didn't Gloria Diaz, Margie Moran, Aurora Pijuan, Melanie Marquez and Gemma Cruz already bring home international titles, thus giving credence to the people's ecstatic claim that this land of the morning is also that of beautiful women? *(To be concluded)*

Everything looks good at California Pizza Kitchen

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

I VISITED a friend in Hawaii in 1989. I was fascinated by the place—it seemed like the whole population was on vacation. Most everyone wore shorts and slippers wherever they went. I felt right at home!

Attractive

One dining place that was attractive because of its theme was a place called California Pizza Kitchen. The cuisine was a blend of western and eastern cuisine. Very interesting concept, I thought.

I don't really remember the quality of food I had then but it must not have been that great because I hardly remember the taste. But I never really forgot the concept. I recall seeing dishes like Peking Duck on a pizza or Asian toppings over pasta.

When CPK opened in Manila a few years back, I never got a chance to dine in there because it was always packed. A friend, food lover and great cook Cita Revilla Yabut was running the operation. The place took off like a rocket. Finally, when a few branches opened in various locations, it became more accessible and more diners could be accommodated.

The menu is quite confusing—everything looks so good! They have mouth-watering pictures. When faced with this kind of a situation, I always turn to what the most popular dishes or the most frequently ordered items are.

For starters, I had an Artichoke dip with blue tortilla chips. This is a delicious appetizer, a creamy, cheesy dip of chopped artichokes, mildly spicy, blended with some parmesan cheese and baked bubbly. With chips or melba toast, it is unforgettable. (A friend, Lizanne Valdez does a most delicious version.)

Cilantro

I also strongly recommend the Oriental chicken salad, which is a mixture of julinenne-cut veggies with crisp angel hair pasta with a spicy sweet-and-sour sesame dressing, topped with broiled chicken breast. The cilantro adds the magic to this winner—a dieter's dream.

The pizza we tried was not that impressive but the crust was quite good, so I guess the right topping would make it a winner, too.

I had the Kung Pao Spaghetti. This is a pasta dish with chicken breast or shrimp with garlic, scallions, peanuts and hot red chillies, in what they call a Kung Dao sauce. It is a bit spicy, but I loved it. It makes one's nose perspire with joy.

The dessert we had was good but nothing really great. I plan to try two that looked very attractive, the Hot Fudge Brownie Sundae and the Key Lime Pie. "*May araw din sila!*"

So, for something new in dining, check out the East Meets West American restaurant franchise. California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) at Ayala Center, Alabang and at Shangri-La Mall. Happy eating! For comments, sandydaza@hotmail.com.

'Planet Love @ The Tent' features top international DJs in huge dance party

JOEY@92.3 FM and NBC Entertainment will once again show why they are among the foremost players in Manila's party scene with "Planet Love @ The Tent," the most massive dance shebang this All Hallows Eve (Oct. 31, Wednesday).

Last year, Joey and NBC successfully brought one of the world's biggest club brands with "Cream Live @ The Fort." With "Planet Love @ The Tent," presented by Smart Communications and Ford Lynx, Asia's hottest party brand will prove that it can outmatch and outplay its western counterparts.

Moving force

Heading the cast of "Planet Love @ The Tent" is DJ John Robinson, the moving force behind Planet Love. With a musical taste that stretches from progressive house to trance and hard house, he has traversed the mainstream and gone back to gain the respect of the more serious artists in his field.

John has taken the notoriously hard to please Tokyo club scene to another level by creating Planet Love, an event with a name and a goal to provide clubbers with the best and most current dance music.

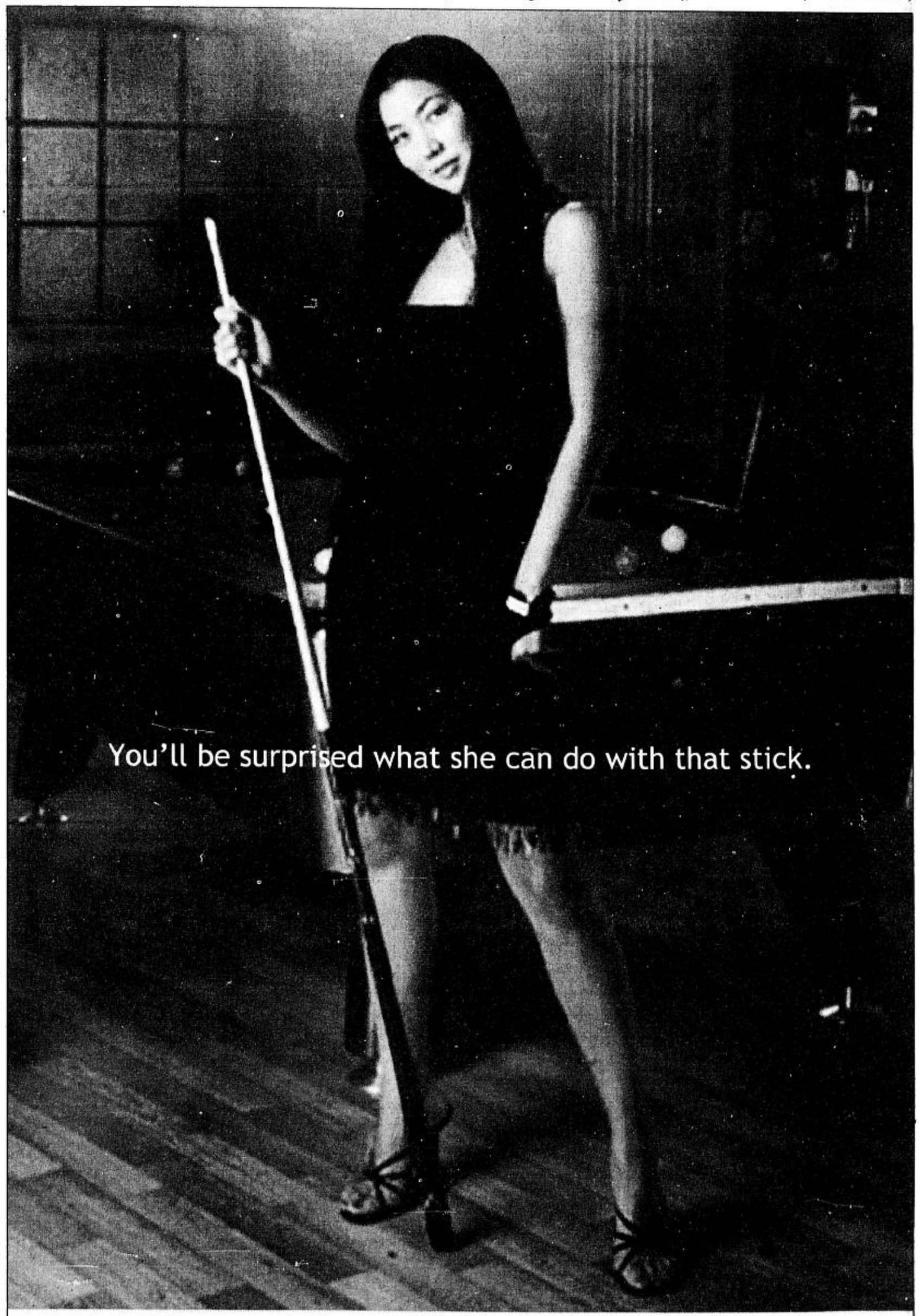
Joining John in "Planet Love @ The Tent" is another hot talent, DJ Koutarou. This DJ, producer and remixer has played in a number of clubs in the US including Twilo, and ha traveled to over 100 cities for his Japan Tour between 1996 to 2001.

Computer-generated images

Adding excitement to the event is Japanese visual jockey Turu, who has attracted quite a following with his "visual dreamscapes." A resident VJ at Planet Love in Tokyo, he blends a wide array of computer generated images together live to pump the scene.

78Orange's Robert Villaluz will open the party and add a Filipino flavor to the event. One of the country's DJs, Robert has always been at the forefront of the party scene.

The latest in laser lights and graphics will showcase professional dancers in their wackiest Halloween costumes. Guests are likewise encouraged to come in their wildest costumes.



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

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SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

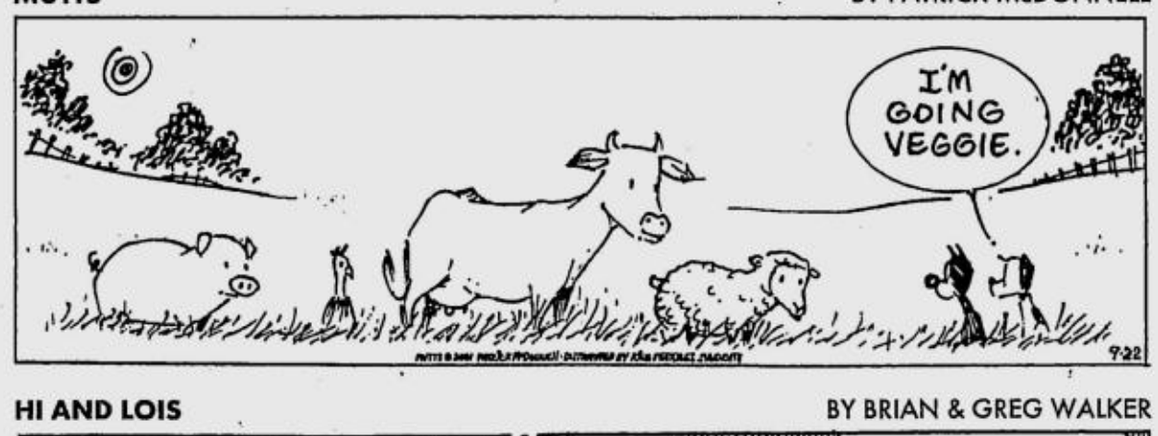
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Cleese, Ruby Dee, Ivan Reitman, Peter Firth, Lee Greenwood

Happy Birthday: You'll want to share your thoughts, ideas and time. This is a great year for interaction and learning all you can about what interests you. You'll find a way to make any desired changes. Take advantage of opportunities that come your way. Your numbers: 1, 3, 11, 28, 33, 35

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your ability to see things clearly will enable you to help others. Look at your surroundings and find ways to make them more comfortable. Open your house to others and make new friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your involvement in groups will be eye-opening. You are likely to find a great buy if you attend an antique auction or flea market. Your ability to help children will be appreciated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Socialize with friends. You may find romance at work-related events. Don't neglect unfinished business. If it needs to be done, put in some overtime and avoid stress later.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Creative projects will help you feel relaxed and less stressed. Don't neglect responsibilities to your partner, or you can expect a fight. Include family in activities and you won't have any problems.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your efforts into better financial planning and wise investments if you have been too generous with friends or children. Opportunities to make residential changes will be excellent.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be emotionally torn if your partner is not treating you the way you had hoped. Try to be compassionate and understanding. He or she may be going through uncertainties at work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make some extra cash through overtime or a part-time job. The money will come in handy and put you in a much better frame of mind. You'll also feel better and accomplish more.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get out shopping. You will find items you've been looking for. Your interest in something or someone new will flourish. Take time to do your own thing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be too sure that you'll make enough money to cover your purchases. You'll be disappointed if your partner doesn't comply with your plans. Show a little compassion and you may get your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Family get-togethers will be warm and affectionate. You may meet someone new through a relative. You can offer suggestions, but don't take on someone's burdens.

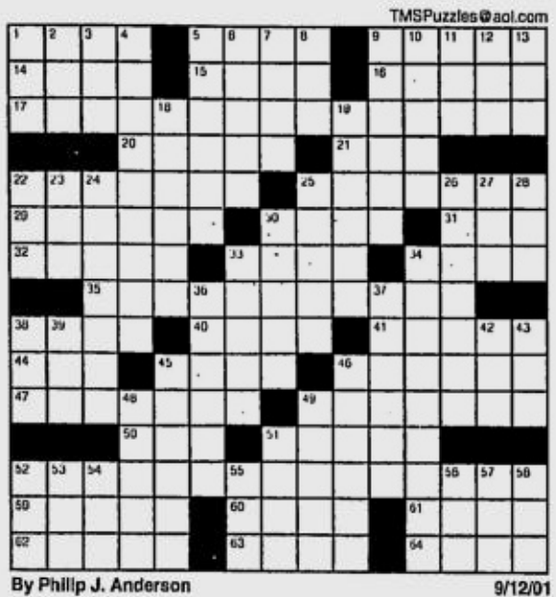
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you spend too much, you'll suffer financially later. You'll just have to settle for whatever you can afford.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotional well-being will be stifled. Don't let your partner put a damper on the day. Make arrangements with friends. It's time you looked out for your own interests.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, loving and willing to stand up for your friends, family and beliefs. You are creative and intuitive.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
9/12/01

ACROSS
1 Keystone __
5 Fill past full
9 Type of numeral
14 Indy-winner Luyendyk
15 __-Neisse line
16 Turn inside out
17 Loser's cry
20 "__ Sanctum"
21 __ "King" Cole
22 Lover of Hero
25 Scatterer
29 Prance about
30 Chef
31 Columbus sch.
32 Purloined
33 Cardsharp's maneuver
34 Go-getter
35 Loser's cry
38 Poetic meadows
40 Novelist Ernest
41 Stage whisper
44 Ailing
45 Sheep shed
46 Away from the bow
47 Sticky
49 Topped the bill
50 Colonial insect
51 Aviator Balbo
52 Loser's cry
59 Senior
60 Indira's dress
61 Bronte heroine
62 Crownlet
63 Annapolis sch.
64 Act

DOWN
1 Bandleader Winding
2 California fort
3 Bakery buy
4 Florida State players
5 14-line poem
6 Poisonous snake
7 Shred
8 Misdo
9 Comment
10 Egg-shaped
11 Ran into
12 Circle section
13 Ultimate degree
18 Fergie's ex
19 Put in a pyramid
22 World Series determiner: abbr.
23 Break bread
24 Frank admissions
25 Wise lawyer
26 More ligneous
27 Compass pt.
28 Karel Capek's sci-fi play
30 Judy of "Laugh-In"
33 H.S. junior's exams
34 Ruined
36 Burrowing rodent
37 Volcanic rock
38 Tyler or Ullmann
39 Whitney known for his gin
42 Rapping Doctor
43 Terminate
45 Band or diction starter?
46 Loss of muscular coordination
48 Supply the food
49 Howard or Isaac
51 Claire and Balin
52 Dampen
53 Mr. Baba
54 Actress Lupino
55 Baton Rouge sch.
56 Look up and down
57 Exist
58 Crimson or scarlet

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	V	I	T		H	E	M	P		G	L	O	W
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9/12/01

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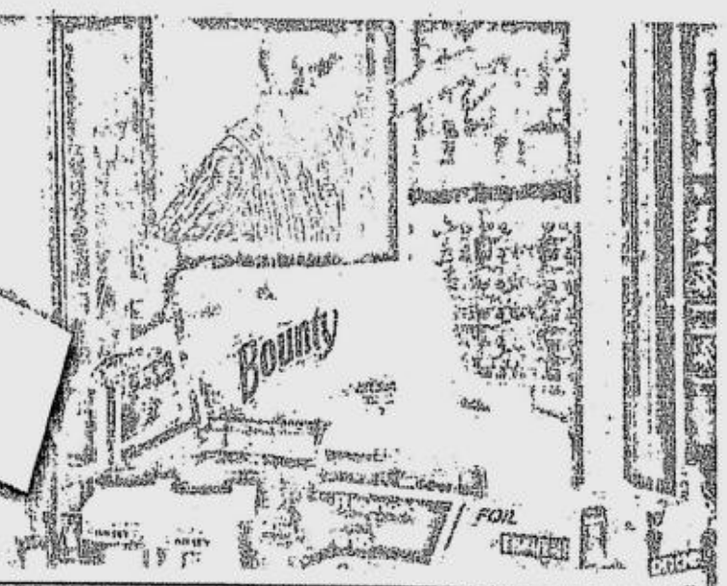

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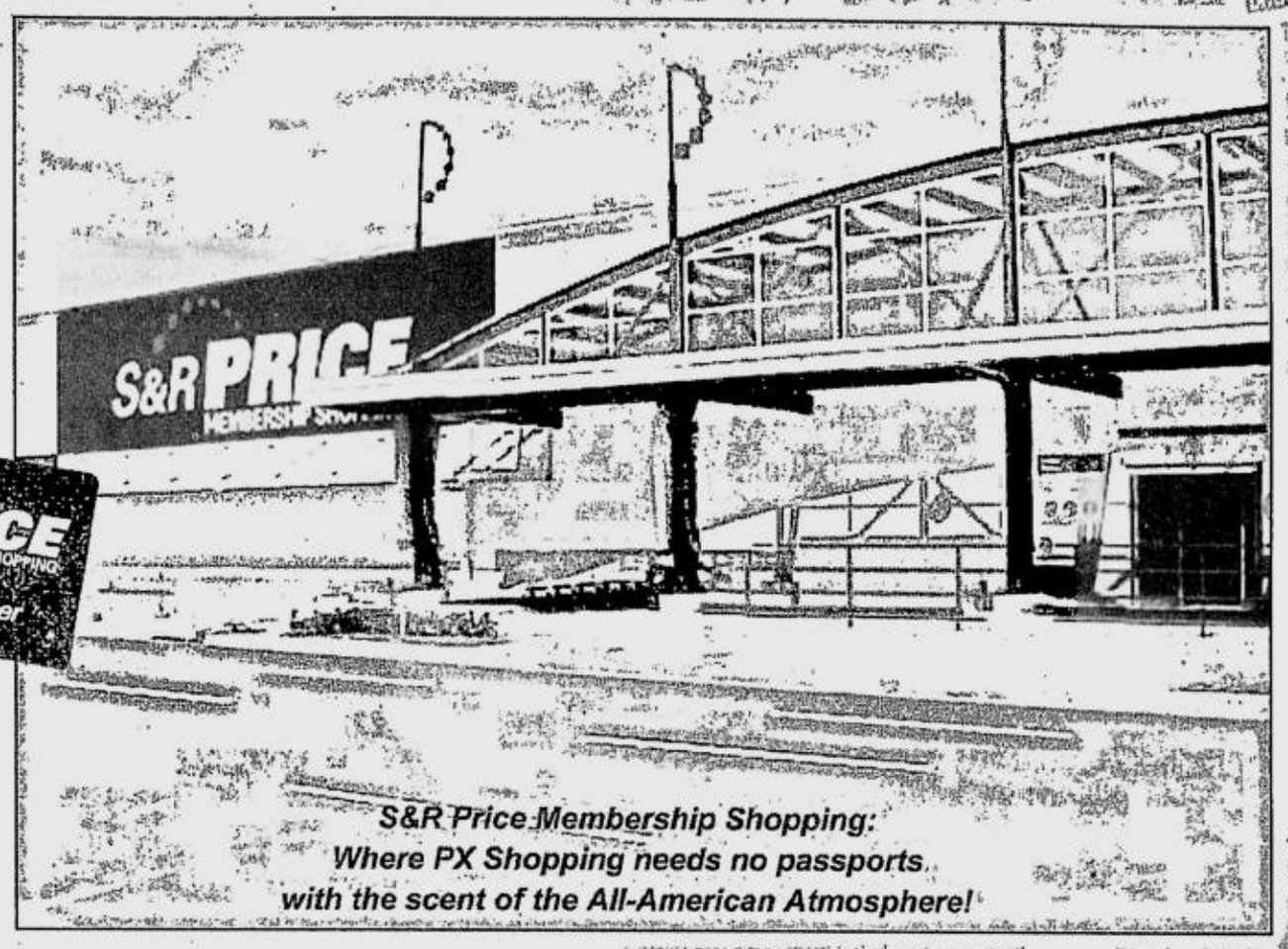

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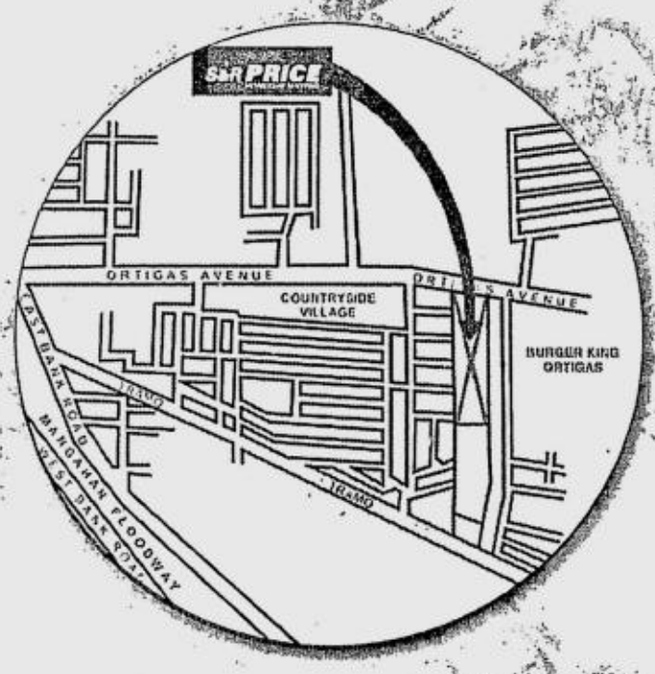

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Minority actors achieve record employment in Hollywood

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

LOS ANGELES—A record number of minority actors found work in Hollywood last year as employment for performers overall rose by 7 percent, the Screen Actors Guild said.

Union officials

Union officials credit diversity awareness programs and civil rights groups for pressuring studios and producers to hire more black, Hispanic and Asian actors.

Of the 53,134 TV or movie roles, 11,930 went to minority actors. White actors still dominate the industry, however, playing 76.1 percent of all roles.

"We're moving slowly but steadily toward the reality of portraying the American scene," guild President William Daniels said. "We are delighted to see gains for all ethnicities on the large and small screen, but there's no question there's still plenty of room for growth in diversity in the television and film world."

About 14.8 percent of all roles went to blacks, the highest percentage since the guild began compiling statistics in 1992. In 1999, blacks received 14.1 percent of all movie or TV parts.

"This is important data to have, but I don't know that the good news is really that good," said Darnell Hunt, director of the Center for African American Studies at University of California Los Angeles.

"When you start looking at the types of roles and screen time, there may be more roles but these aren't starring parts," he said.

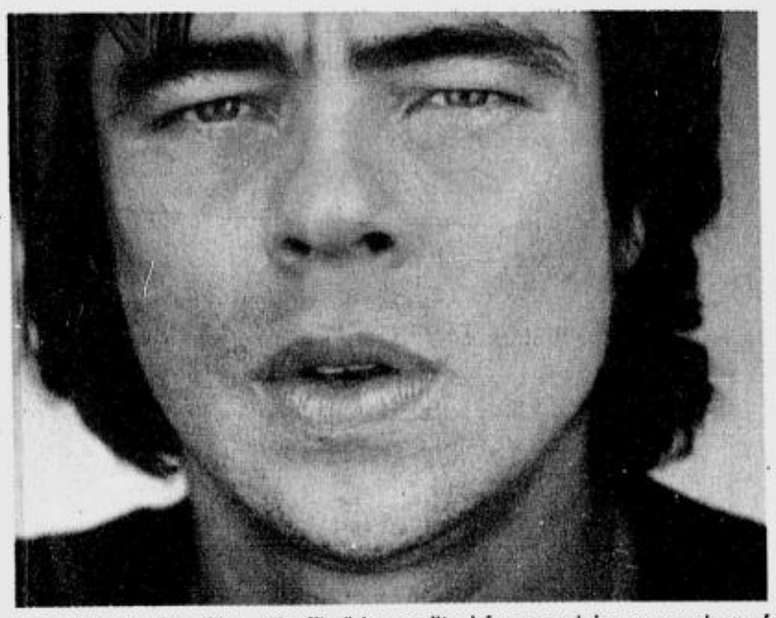
Hispanics and Asian-Pacific Islanders broke other casting records. Hispanics received 4.9 percent of all roles, up from the previous high of 4.4 percent in 1999, and Asian-Pacific Islanders garnered 2.6 percent, up from 2.2 percent the previous year.

Right direction

"It's too little progress, but the number is going in the right direction," said Lisa Navarrete, spokeswoman for the National Council of La Raza, America's largest Hispanic advocacy group.

"We're 13 percent of the population of the US, so I'd hope we could get 13 percent of the roles."

She credited movies like "Traffic" for supplying a number of starring roles for Hispanics last year. Puerto Rican-born Benicio Del Toro won a supporting actor Oscar for playing a conflicted Mexican police officer in the drug epic.



DEL TORO. His film, "Traffic," is credited for supplying a number of starring roles for Hispanics.

Meanwhile, American Indians were cast in 0.3 percent of roles, up from 0.2 percent.

However, guild spokesman Greg Krizman cautioned that the guild's data only examine the quantity of minority actors hired, not the quality of roles they play.

Boom

Krizman also said the 7 percent increase in overall jobs from 49,662 in 1999 is likely due to a boom in film and TV production aimed at averting a potential strike by actors when they negotiated for a new contract this summer.

A settlement was reached in July without a walkout.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been one of the most vocal groups decrying the absence of strong roles for minorities on network television. NAACP officials declined to comment on the guild statistics. *AP*

AM/FM

Voice of America broadcasts heard clearly in Mindanao

BY RITO P. ASILO

WE had an interesting time checking out different radio programs on our recent visit to the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Digos and Davao.

For starters, we discovered that Cagayanons enjoyed the clear satellite-assisted broadcasts of the US-based Voice of America radio network. We listened to no-fluff, uninterrupted programming that segued from politics to sports, to business and entertainment. We realized how all of these were affected by the bombings and the anthrax scare.

Media sensitivity

Recent concerns about media sensitivity had forced production companies to re-write storylines, re-edit movie trailers (like the Tobey Maguire-Kirsten Dunst starrer, "Spiderman"), move movie playdates (like Schwarzenegger's "Collateral Damage") and change marketing strategies. Recording artists, particularly hip-hop rap artists like The Crew, have agreed to tone down the depiction of violence in their gangsta lyrics. Whitney Houston has a new Top Ten hit in "The Star-Spangled Banner." Even the video game industry is slowing down the production of popular but violent games like "Flight Simulator."

VOA also reported that studios in the US are re-releasing feel-good movies, like Julia Roberts' "America's Sweethearts," but that, sadly, movies in production have decreased: Warner Brothers has only three movies in production now—it had 15 during the same period last year. The same trend is likewise observed in the Sony, Paramount and Disney studios.

Warning

When John Travolta and Hugh Jackman's "Swordfish" was recently released on video, it contains a warning label: "Innocent victims used as hostages to siphon millions of dollars."

When we switched stations, we noticed that drama serials were big in Cagayan. While we remember listening to radio comedies (like "Ang Manok ni San Pedro") when we were growing up in Mindanao, it has been years since we heard one in the vernacular (where every spoken line seemed to end with a couple of exclamation point), like "*Unsa?!!!*" ("What"); "*Dili tinood ang akong damgo, dili!!!*" ("My dream can't be real—no"), while canned music that sounded like it came from a horror movie played in the background. No wonder those Mexican telenovelas are so popular in the Philippines!

By the way, in Davao, we were able to get signals from Bombo Radyo's Naga broadcast—in Bicolano!

We were able to listen to dxPR's "Harana sa dxPR," featuring live singing of unfamiliar Visayan *harana* songs. While we admit to having enjoyed listening to authentic Visayan songs, we also had a bit of a headache with the vibrato overload gone amok, courtesy of enthusiastic, guitar-playing vocalists whose confidence, even when they were out of sync or out of tune, theater artists could learn a lot from.

Cable technology

The power of cable technology may have revolutionized TV viewing even in provinces, but radio is still the most patronized medium.

We even heard a portion of Manila's dzRH broadcast of "Operation Tulong," where a man in his 30s was found unconscious, with his fly open, inside Manila's Globe Theater, where sex-oriented movies were being screened. Host Andy Verde snickered while describing the man in jest, with playful emphasis on the adjectives: "*Malaki ang katawan, matigas ang dibdib.*" Maybe the poor guy found the movies so boring that he decided to take a nap?

Advice show

Angel Radyo's Davao station is dzRG (where we chanced upon Ellen Coron's "Pamilya" show, weekdays, 11-12 noon), while Davao's dzAB 1296 kHz is dzMM's (630 kHz) counterpart in the south. We caught a portion of "Knowledge Power," then Jun Banaag's interesting advice show, "Whispers of the Heart with Dr. Lab."

We had a lot of funny moments listening to different radio programs in Davao. But these would not be complete without mentioning a religious show hostess who argued for two hours (from 8 to 10 p.m.), and then again, the following day at around 11 a.m., that male sperm is the source of a fetus' blood during fertilization—and that a female egg has nothing to do with it.

She repeatedly promised to "prove this to you, listeners," but she never got around to proving her point. She just repeated again and again, defensively: "Doctors would never understand this because their knowledge is limited." Like, hers is not? As Mindanaoans say, "*Joker ka ra kaayo, Day!*"

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Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 55

WWW.INQ7.NET

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- Story: Laya — Page 6
- Atomo & Weboy — Page 10

Kids Turn Good Deeds into Artworks

BY MAE ASTRID TOBIAS

THE BALLROOM was bustling with activity. There were lights and cameras everywhere. The kids were in their best clothes, *barongs* for the boys while the girls wore formal dresses. Even their parents had their best outfits on. In one table sat Larry Alcala, the famous cartoonist. But all attention was on 10 artworks displayed by the stage. They were the finalists to this year's Jollibee "Kaya Mong Magbigay Saya Kid" Mixed Media Art contest.

On Oct. 13 at the Heritage Hotel, the national winners of the contest were named. They were Hemela Joyce C. Filipina and Benjie Gallego of Midsayap Pilot Elementary School in Cotabato City for Category A (Grade 3-4) and Jeane Renee T. Nubla and Adeline C. Gutierrez of Philippine Sabin School in Manila for Category B (Grade 5-7).

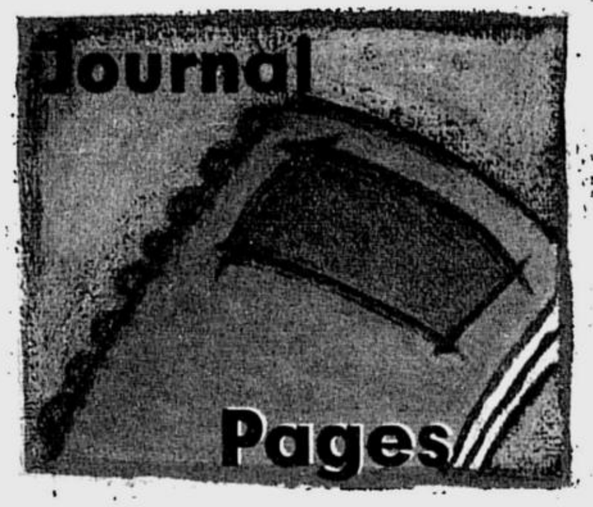
Imagine, the works of these kids were named the best out of 6,500 entries sent from all over the country. With the theme *"Sa kabutihang munti, ako'y makakapagdulot ng ngiti,"* the contest asked the kids to make artworks using various materials while showing ways of bringing happiness to others through acts of kindness. It took more than luck to win. These kids also used a lot of their imagination, creativity, and hard work.

For Hemela Joyce and Benjie, it took them two days to create their winning entry titled "Tuba Tuba sa Tuhod ni Lola." *Yantok,* scrap cloth and colored pencils were only a few of the materials they used.

It took a longer time for Jeane Renee and Adeline to complete their entry. For three

Kids/p.5

BEST ART. Hemela Joyce and Benjie show off "Tuba Tuba sa Tuhod ni Lola." RANDY HORMILLOSA



My First Jazz Dance Lesson

BY VADA RODRIGUEZ

I COULD possibly be the world's most terrible dancer. I can carry a tune, brush paint on a canvas and be in the centerstage spotlight. But I cannot dance. Well, I can move and groove, but only within the vicinity of my own room, with window-shattering music. Of course, the door must be safely shut and locked.

To improve my coordination skills, I decided to enroll in jazz lessons at Powerdance. I was really excited at first, especially since I paid for the classes (my decision, not my Mom's!). but as the day neared, the chit-chatty caterpillars turned into bouncing butterflies. I was scared that I wouldn't be able to follow or that everyone would be better than me.

I walked into the dance studio clutching my mother's hand. I felt like a kindergarten student not wanting to go into preschool. Being the teenager I was, I instantly let go. I rubbed by own sweaty palms together. I went to the bathroom to calm myself but it wasn't any help. In 10 minutes, the class was going to start.

Five o'clock came too soon. The teacher was wearing all polyester. His top was bright pink and his leggings were black. I was in the middle row beside a short woman and a sweaty, muscled guy. I saw myself in the mirror and bit my lip to keep me from laughing. I couldn't believe I was actually doing this!

We did all kinds of stretching. . . Every time a new exercise would come up, I would be like "Oh no! Oh no! I can't do it!" There was one where you lie on your stomach then you lift one leg and hold onto it with your hand. I was the only one who couldn't do it. I was embarrassed, at first, but then I said, "Hey, at least I'm trying!"

After that, we all went to one side of the room. The teacher would demonstrate a particular routine and you had to do it in batches of three or four. (You would dance to the other side of the room.) I wasn't feeling confident so I hid in the back. When my turn came, I tried hard to follow. Maybe too hard because I looked like silly! I didn't know what a *pas de bouree* was or what step-ball-chain meant. My only resort was to copy what others were doing. Needless to say, I walked halfway across the room, since I was bad at following and copying.

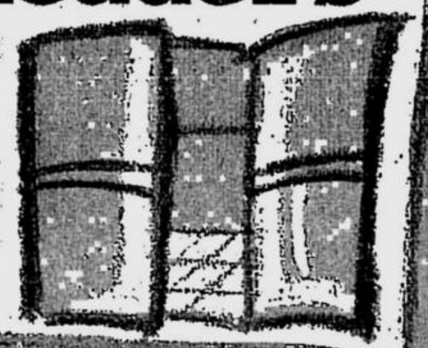
The routines kept on becoming more complicated and the pathetic actions I was doing (which I don't think you'd call dancing) became worse. But I was having fun and that's what mattered. It was also nice to see other people dance.

By watching, I realized that they were not perfect. Sure, there were really good ones who could leap and jump and turn but they, too, had their faults. There were those who were concentrating so hard that you could see wrinkles forming on their foreheads. At that moment, the butterflies flew away and at last, I felt totally relaxed. We put together all those little routines to form a sequence. And even if I couldn't pivot well or jump as high, I was having fun. That's what's important. I can't wait till my next class.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Correct information

DEAR Editor,

I've been an avid reader of JI since it first came out with our Saturday copy of the INQUIRER. Having a section in the newspaper for young people is a good way to keep us informed and interested in the world around us.

I would like to commend your article on the terrorist attacks in the United States. It is indeed a great tragedy and all of us are affected by this act of ruthlessness, not just those who are directly involved. Young people like me should also know what is going on. At this time, it is crucial to pass on correct information and your article has greatly contributed to this task. With simple tips and advice to safeguard us, friends and family and suggestions to help alleviate the effects, the entire society can overcome terrorism, not just one country's problem, but also everyone's concern.

—FAE ANGELA R. PALABRICA, 15, Philippine Science High School

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WORLD SCOPE

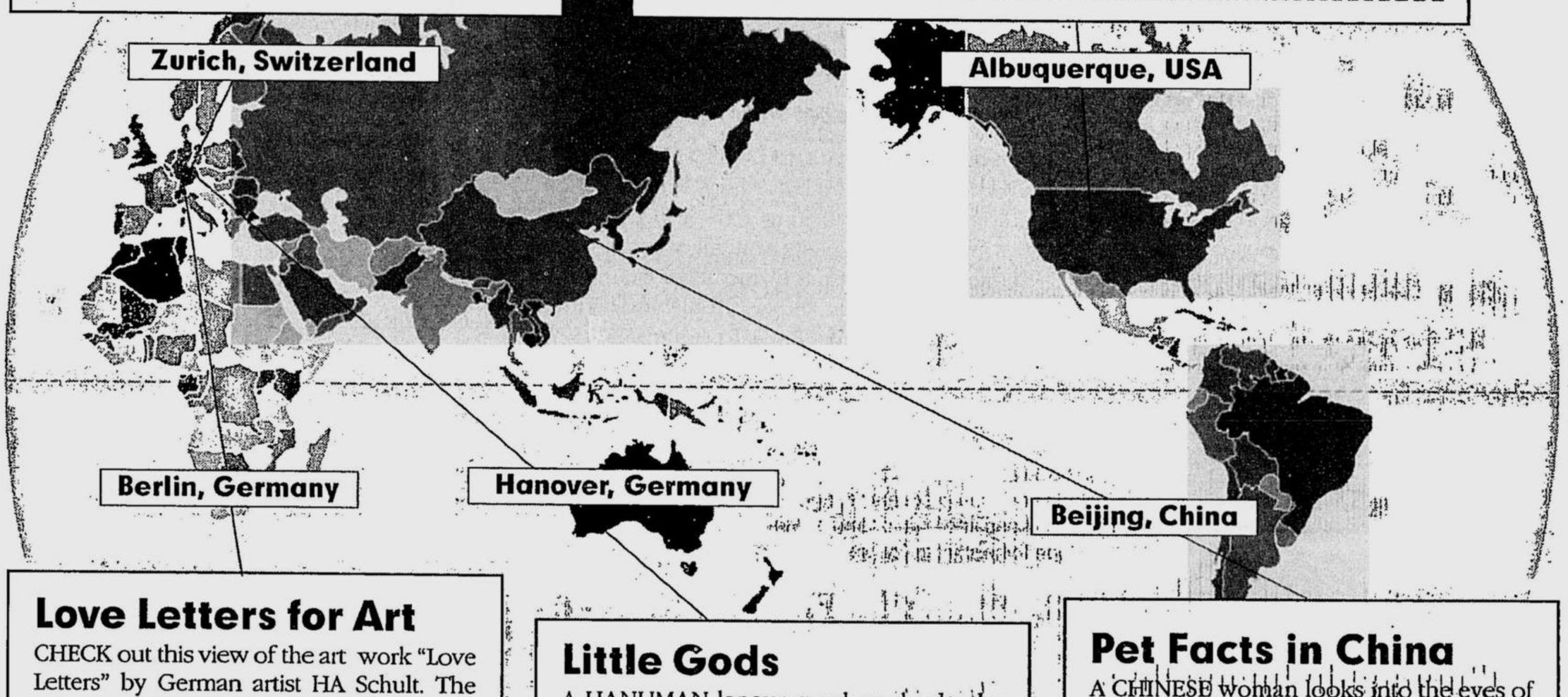
Hingis Hospitalized

SWISS tennis player Martina Hingis is interviewed by a reporter of Swiss television station SFDRS in this image taken from television, in the Klinik im Park hospital in Zurich, Switzerland, after having surgery on the torn ligaments in her right foot. According to Hingis' doctor, Heinz Buehlmann, it will take her about eight weeks before she will be able to run on the foot again. ***AP***

A Hot Sight

CICYCLISTS enjoy a ride along the North Diversion Channel as hot air balloons from the Kodak Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Mass Ascension, fly above them.

AP

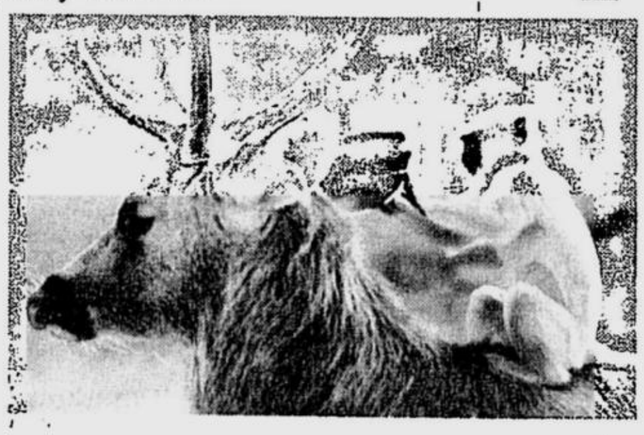


Love Letters for Art

CHECK out this view of the art work "Love Letters" by German artist HA Schult. The collection of around 20,000 enlarged copies of original love letters are fixed at a scaffolding at the front of a historical post building during renovation works. The installation was be completed Oct. 13 and will be displayed until Nov. 13. ***AP***

Little Gods

A HANUMAN langur monkey checks the ears of a Barasingha deer in the zoo of Hanover. The Hanuman langur are "little gods" in India, so crowds of the monkeys live in the many temples. The "holy" monkeys can jump more than 10 meters, if they have to. ***AP***



Pet Facts in China

A CHINESE woman looks into the eyes of a kitten during the 5th China International Pet Show in Beijing. Pet ownership has risen steadily in China though less than 10,000 are registered due to prohibitive licensing cost of RMB 5000 or US$650. There's an estimated 500,000 pets unlicensed or not officially registered pets in Beijing alone. ***AP***

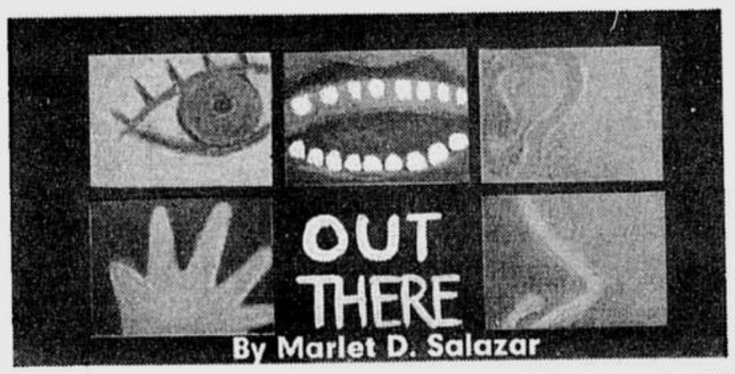
Workshops

FIRST AID CLASS. Be ready in times of emergency. If you are a boy or a girl scout who wants to learn first aid, join Chiang Kai Shek Scout Center's series of training courses, with the Philippine National Red Cross. Courses include Junior First Aid (grade school level), Standard First Aid (high school level), or Accident Prevention (all levels). There will also be a Swimming Proficiency Certification Course for interested scouts. The workshop's scheduled on Oct. 28-31. For more details call up Naty P. Sia at 252-3617.

Halloween Fun Time

PRE-HALLOWEEN PARTY. Wear your scariest costume to join Sacred Heart School Halloween Costume Party. Check out the schedule: Goodwill Bookstore Activity Center, Oct. 28, 3 p.m., Basement Level, Ayala Center Makati City, call up 813-4956 and 893-9079; SHS Forbes, Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. 2/F Parish Social Hall, Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley, Forbes Park, Makati, call up 840-5493 and 840-2632. The activities include face painting, storytelling, magic show and exciting games and surprises.

***i* CLUB HALLOWEEN PARADE.** Gear up *i* Club members! SkyCable and Cartoon Network will hold a Halloween parade today at the Alabang Town Center, Activity Center at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Join in the fun and win prizes as Scariest Mom and Child, Most Creative Mom and Child, Best Cartoon Network Character and Funniest costumes. For more information call up 910-1577 for pre-registration or visit the *i* Club ,SkyCable, GF Benpres Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center.



By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

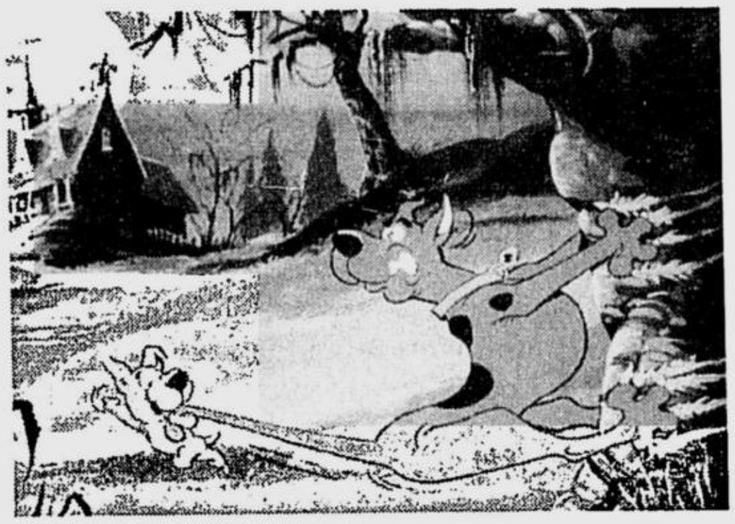
WIZARD'S WORLD. Be a part of Dusit Hotel Nikko's Wizard's World on Oct. 31 at 3 p.m. There will be an on-the-spot drawing contest, games, and a demo session of the Harry Potter Trading Card game. Plus, special prizes will also be given to kids who will come in their favorite Halloween costume. To avail youself of an entry pass to this fun activity, eat lunch or dinner buffet at The Café. For more info call up 867-3333.

Museum Moments

HATS OF THE WORLD. It's United Nations month so Museo Pambata's friendly theme room guides prepared exciting activities. Tomorrow learn how to make hats from all over the world at the MP Guides Craft Demo at the Craft Room of Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard, corner South Drive, Manila. For info call up 523-1797 to 98.

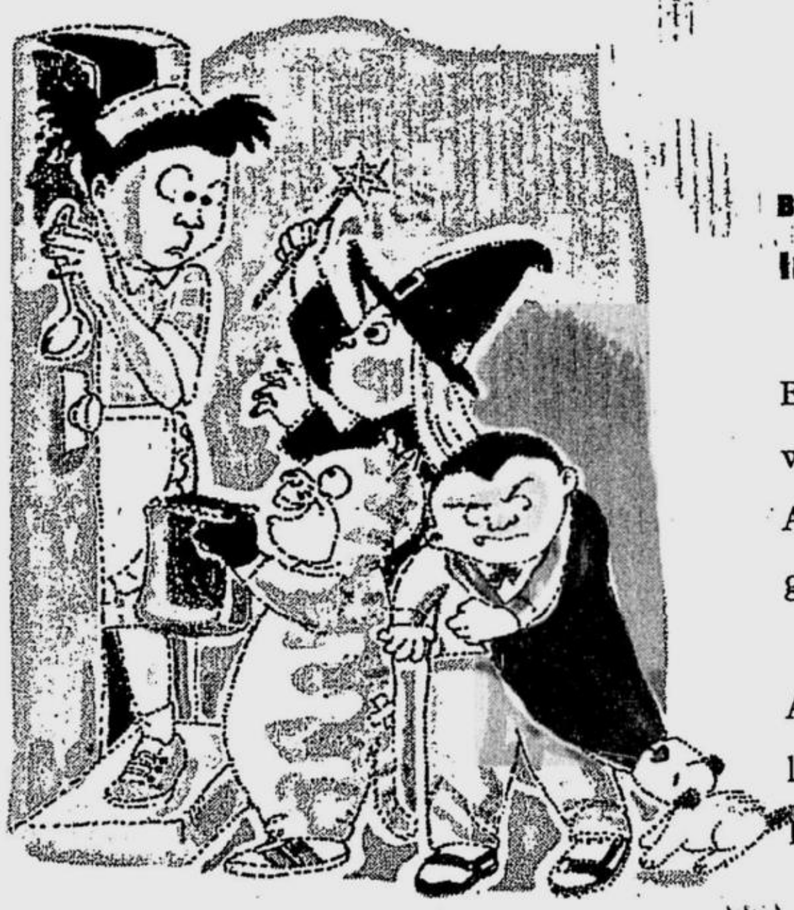
Cable Picks

SCARE-A-THON! Here's a Halloween treat to all toon lovers! On Oct. 31 at 6-9 p.m. the two biggest scaredy-dogs are pairing up for a three-hour spookiest as ghost and ghouls with fun-filled thrills and spills on "Scooby and Courage Scare-a-Thon." After that treat yourself to a special movie with the animated feature "Halloween Tree." The story is set on the night of Hallows Eve with a group of kids go to search for their lost friend. See how these kids brave the spirit of a monstrous tree. Don't miss all these on Cartoon Network.



JOIN in the fun with Scrappy and his Uncle Scoob as they solve another mystery.

MORE DOGS WITH JOBS. Meet more dogs who put their extraordinary talents and special skills to work in a variety of remarkable jobs on National Geographic Channel's "Dogs with Jobs" all Thursdays of November. There's Ginny, a dog who patrols the streets of Long Beach, New York, and look for abandoned or injured cats; and join Jake, a German Shepherd working with the Canadian Coast Guard, trained to spring into action from speedboats and helicopters as he pursues poachers. All these and more on NGC every Thursday at 9 p.m.



Halloween Night

FOR or By KIDS

BY ROMA MIKAELA M. KAIMO
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Everybody's filled with fear
when it's Halloween night.
And people in costumes
gave little children a fright!

As people in costumes grinned slyly,
little kids held out their chins highly.
Draculas bowed their heads as if in a trance,
and when they scared people,
they laughed and they danced!

As people took off their disguises,
kids showed their parents surprises.
Some practical jokes they learned,
Some practical jokes they earned,
and all the candy they earned!

***Roma** is 9 years old and studies at Infant Jesus Academy.*
***Albert** is one of Inquirer's staff artists.*

Tankas to Scare You

POETRY BY
MAE ASTRID TOBIAS
ILLUSTRATIONS BY
STEPH BRAVO

FOR or By KIDS

The "Tikbalang"

Under the mango
sits the frightful *tikbalang*,
half-man and half-horse.
In a moonless night like this,
he waits for a child to scare.

The "Kapre"

High up the mango
Crouches another creature,
the smelly *kapre*,
smoking his giant cigar,
watching his pot full of gold.

The Mananggal

Beside the mango,
someone left a pair of legs
minus its torso.
Half of the *mananaggal*
is here; the other away.

Kids Turn...

(from page 1)

weeks, the girls cut *gugo* and scotch brite, folded magazine pages and pasted gun pellets on an illustration board to finish their work titled "Kapwa Napapasaya, Sa Munti Naming Gawa."

Both works showed children helping their grandmothers. Hemela Joyce narrated how she helped treating the wound of her grandmother. This became the inspiration for their entry. Jeane Renee also had a similar story. She got her idea from the time she helped her grandmother pick up something from the ground because she couldn't bend down anymore.

Another entry worth mentioning was by Romeo Christo E. Rosete IV of Quezon Elementary School, Baguio City. His work titled "Munting Tagapagligtas" was made entirely of eggshells and showed a boy caring for the environment. You could tell he really put a lot of effort into it. He won second place for Category B.

Larry Alcala, who was the chairman of the board of judges, was impressed with the works of the children.

" I am surprised at their talents," he said.

KIDS

Mermaid

"Don't worry, Kidlat. I'll get you down," she said as she scooped the frightened cat into her arms

STORY BY YVETTE TAN
ILLUSTRATIONS BY LYRA ABUEG GARCELLANO

NIGHT came like a blanket, covering the sky in velvet black. The moon hung full and round, illuminating everything without the help of stars. Everything was quiet in the forest; the trees lulled to sleep by the hum of insects and the flap of batwings. Moonlight seeped through cracks in the foliage, making speckled patterns on the forest floor.

Laya made her way through the shrubbery, trying to keep from getting caught on stray branches. It wasn't easy, especially when she had her wings to think about.

Laya was half *aswang* and half human. She was 8 years old and had a pair of batwings that grew out of her back and made her look like a giant bat. Unfortunately, that was all they were good for. No matter how hard she tried, Laya couldn't get them to make her fly. So instead of flying, she had to walk and hope that her wings didn't hit too many branches.

Laya knew the forest well. Even in the darkest night, she could get to where she was going. Tonight, she was heading toward a small clearing that her playmates and she had adopted for themselves when they found out that very few adults knew about it. From where she was, she could hear voices, which grew louder as she neared the secret hideout.

"That was the best naming ceremony ever!" an excited Miranda said.

Miranda was Laya's age. She was short and squat and was training to be a *mambabarang*, or herb witch. In the barrio they lived in, an herb witch was almost like a doctor. She could cure simple illnesses and help mothers give birth. Miranda wanted very much to be a *mambabarang*. She was at the top of her class in witch school and could actually make things float. Putting them down was another matter altogether. Miranda was well known for breaking all the eggs that the witch students practiced with.

"Yes," Tiburcio's voice agreed, "I can't stop thinking about the food. Your mother cooks really good pansit!"

Tiburcio, who used to be called Totoy Takaw, was almost 9. He was a *tikbalang*. He had a horse's head and a boy's body. True to his old nickname, he spent half of his time eating and spent the other half thinking about food. The kids had stopped calling him Totoy when they discovered that he could talk to animals, though Takaw Tiburcio sounded funny, too.

"You're always thinking about food," Esmeralda laughed.

ESMERALDA, who was 9, took a lot of getting used to. She was always telling everyone how wonderful she was. Laya supposed that it was hard to be humble when you were an *enkantada* who had long green hair that sparkled in the sun and when you could weave all sorts of illusions that looked like they were real.

Weaving illusions meant that Esmeralda could create all sorts of things with just a wave of her hand. The bad part about the things she created was that you couldn't use them because they weren't really there, even though you thought they were.

Laya thought that it was a pretty nice talent. Esmeralda never had to eat ampalaya because she always made her plate look clean.

It seemed that everyone had gotten to the clearing before Laya. The only voices she hadn't heard so far were those of Kidlat and Kulog, who were twins. Esmeralda was talking about them.

"I think that it's nice that Kidlat and Kulog have finally gone through the Naming Ceremony," Esmeralda continued. "They're older kids now so I guess we don't have to call them by their nicknames anymore. I guess that leaves — "

"Laya!" Kidlat and Kulog exclaimed at the same time as Laya stepped into the clearing.

"Hi everyone," Laya said as she sat down beside Tiburcio.

"Hello, Batty," Esmeralda said. "We were talking about Kidlat and Kulog's Naming Ceremony."

THE NAMING Ceremony was a very important event in a child's life for two reasons. First, because it meant that she had discovered her special talent, which could be anything from magic to shape-changing.

Second, it meant that people stopped calling her by her nickname and started calling her by her real name instead. Kidlat and Kulog, who were both 6, had just recently gone through theirs three nights before.

The twins were *kiwigs*, which were people who turned into animals every time the moon was full. So tonight, Kidlat was a cat and Kulog was a dog.

"Yes, I know," Laya said, "I think that Kidlat makes a very pretty cat."

"Thanksssss, Laya," Kidlat said shyly. Kidlat didn't always talk with a lisp but being a cat did funny things to her tongue.

Kulog growled.

"You too, Kulog," Laya said, "I've never seen such a handsome dog."

Satisfied, Kulog sat back.

"So when do we attend *your* party, Batty?" Esmeralda asked, taking a comb out of thin air and pretending to run it though her hair.

"My name's not Batty," Laya answered, her voice sounding angrier than she would have liked.

"Well we certainly can't call you anything else, seeing as you don't have a real name yet," Esmeralda sneered.

"Stop that, Esmeralda, that's mean," Miranda said, but Esmeralda ignored her.

Laya felt her eyes water. "I do have a real name, I just can't use it yet but when I can, I'm sure that it'll be because I'll be able to do something better than weaving stupid illusions."

The other children gasped in horror.

"Now, now," Tiburcio said, "We're all friends. Let's not fight."

"I do not weave stupid illusions!" Esmeralda screamed, throwing her comb into the air where it disappeared with a poof. "You're just jealous because we've all got special talents and you

don't. All you have are wings and they don't even work right!"

"I'm not jealous," Laya said, "I just think you're mean." She stood up and walked away from where her friends sat.

"Where are you going?" Kulog asked.

"I don't feel like playing tonight," Laya said as she disappeared into the shadows.

"That wasn't very nice," Miranda said as they watched their friend select a tree and climb it.

"Who cares?" Esmeralda answered. She reached over and slapped Tiburcio on the back. "Taya! You're it!"

Soon, everyone was running around and yelling at the top of their voices, Esmeralda and Laya's argument forgotten in the midst of play.

LAYA climbed as fast as she could, not caring that her wings kept snagging on branches and hurting her back, or that she couldn't really see anything because of the tears that blurred her vision. One of her wings got caught on a stray branch, making her lose her balance and almost fall.

"Stupid wings," she muttered, "always weighing me down. I wish that I never had them. I wish —"

She stopped, realizing that she had reached the top of the tree. Below her, everything looked small and ant-like, especially since the sky above was so big. She could make out the figures of her friends playing touch *taya* in the clearing. Tiburcio was it and was happily chasing Kidlat while making a funny sound that Laya supposed was a horse's neigh. Laya looked at the sky, loving the way that the moon made everything so bright. She hadn't realized that she was staring at it until she was distracted by shouts from below.

ESMERALDA was staring up a tree. "Get her down! Get her down!" she screamed.

"I'm sorry! I'm sorry!" Tiburcio wailed from nearby. He had his hands over his eyes. He sounded like he was about to cry.

Kulog and Miranda were running in frantic circles and Kidlat was—wait! Where was Kidlat?

Suddenly, Laya heard a loud meow. It seemed to be coming from the tree nearest her friends. Laya could make out the small shape of a cat among its branches. The cat seemed to be terrified.

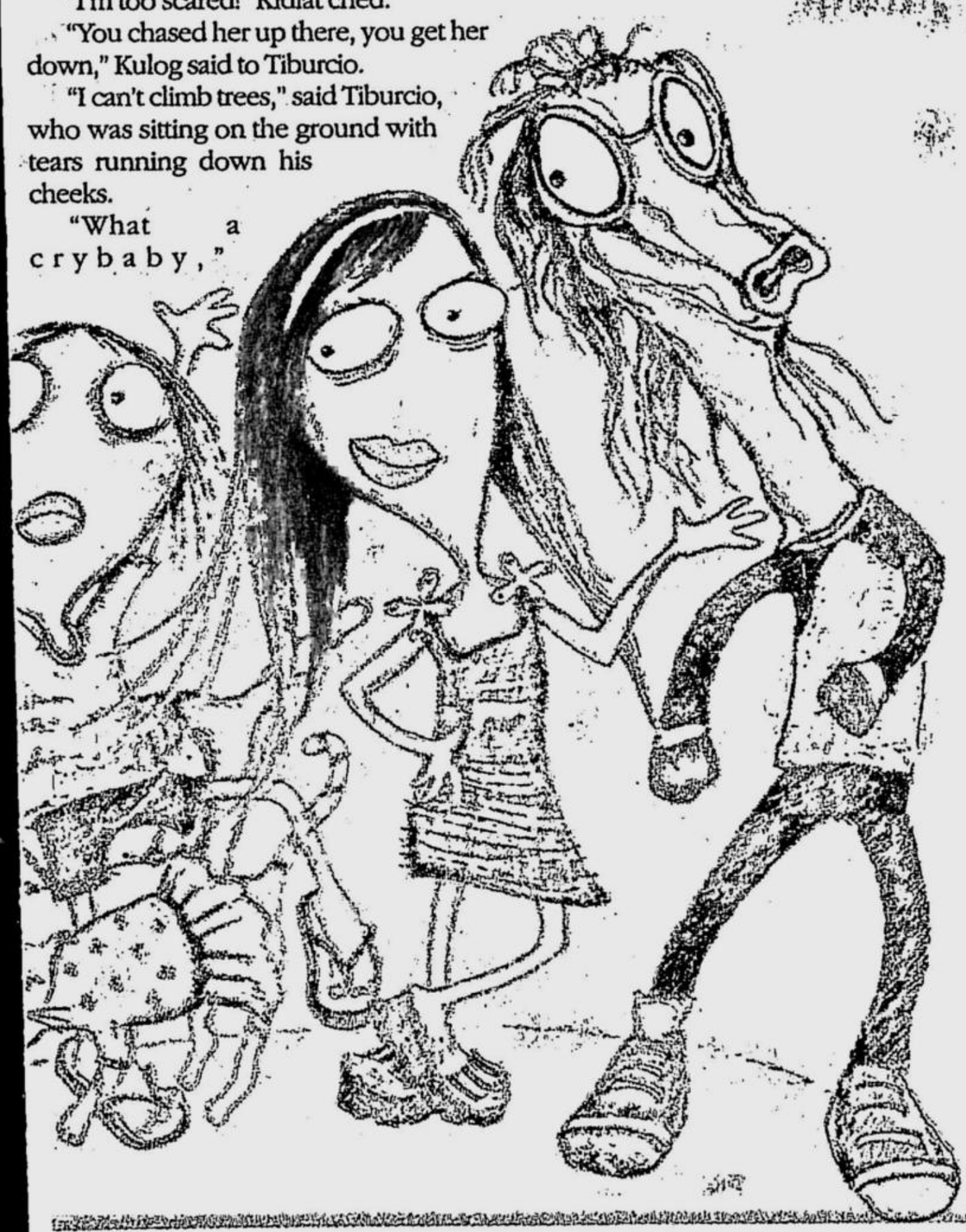
"Kidlat!" Kulog screamed, "Get down from there before you get hurt!"

"I'm too scared!" Kidlat cried.

"You chased her up there, you get her down," Kulog said to Tiburcio.

"I can't climb trees," said Tiburcio, who was sitting on the ground with tears running down his cheeks.

"What a crybaby,"



Esmeralda said, giving the *tikbalang* a mean look. "I'll get her down."

She waved her hands about and suddenly, a ladder appeared where some branches used to be. "Climb down, Kidlat!" she yelled.

"It's still too high," Kidlat wailed. "I'll fall!"

"Maybe I can make her float and set her down," Miranda suggested.

"Yeah, but you can't make things come down right away, remember?" Tiburcio reminded her. He had stopped crying and was wiping his nose with the hem of his shirt. "You might hurt her," he added. The thought of it made fresh tears well up and soon, he was crying again.

"Help me, Kulog!" Kidlat meowed, "You're the best tree climber in the barrio."

"Dogs can't climb trees," Kulog said. "We'll have to wait until morning."

"I don't want to wait until morning!" Kidlat yowled.

"Or we could go call Nanay."

"I don't want to call Nanay! She'll never let us play outside again!"

A loud sound and a rain of branches made the children look up. Laya had jumped from the tree she was on to the tree near the one Kidlat was trapped in. They watched in silence as Laya used her wings to hook herself onto strong branches while she jumped from tree to tree.

"Go, Laya!" Miranda cheered.

"Yeah, save Kidlat!" Kulog yelled.

Soon, everyone was shouting words of encouragement to their friend. Meanwhile, Laya got nearer and nearer Kidlat. Hook her wings; jump to the next tree. Hook her wings; jump to the next tree. Finally, she reached the one Kidlat was stuck in.

"Don't worry, Kidlat. I'll get you down," she said as she scooped the frightened cat into her arms. "Whatever you do, don't look down," she said as she started climbing down.

Climbing down a tree is always harder that climbing up one, and it is even harder when you are holding something. Laya had to be extra careful where she placed her feet and hands because one wrong move could mean a very bad accident for both of them. Kidlat was a tight ball of fur that was digging its claws into Laya's arms. Laya tried to ignore the pain and concentrated on getting down safely instead.

"Are we almost there yet?" Kidlat asked.

"Almost there," Laya assured her.

Kidlat turned to look. They weren't even halfway down the tree! She yowled and accidentally let go of Laya. Laya screamed and caught her friend, but not before letting go of the tree.

Laya and Kidlat fell and fell, Kidlat yowling all the way and Laya flapping her wings in panic. Laya could see the ground getting nearer and nearer. She closed her eyes so that she wouldn't have to see when she hit it.

"Open your eyes, Laya!" Miranda exclaimed.

"Yeah, open your eyes!" Tiburcio repeated.

"Laya?" Kidlat said softly, "I think you'd better do what they say."

Laya slowly opened one eye, and then the other one. She couldn't believe what she saw.

She was flying!

The children stared in awe as Laya floated to the ground, her batwings flapping silently in the night.

"You flew!" Miranda said excitedly as she embraced Laya.

"Thank you for saving Kidlat," Kulog said happily as Kidlat jumped out of Laya's arms and ran to her brother.

"I want to fly, too!" Tiburcio said! He began to run in circles, sticking his arms out and pretending to flap them.

"Thankyouthankyouthankyouthankyou!" Kidlat said from where she and Kulog were hugging.

"I guess I should apologize," Esmeralda said. "You do have a talent and it is better than making illusions."

"Not really," Laya said. "I think that all talents are the same and you can't say one is better than the other."

"You know what this means?" Miranda asked excitedly. "This means that you'll be going through the naming ceremony, too!"

"Another party? Yeheeeeeey! More food!" Tiburcio exclaimed as he continued running.

"Well, I won't be able to call you Batty anymore, so I guess I'd better practice calling you by your real name," Esmeralda said. "What is your real name, anyway?"

Laya smiled and said, "It's Kalayaan."

***Yvette** is a 24 year-old writer. She has a cat named Baudelaire and a teddy bear named Wuffabump. She talks to both."*

***Lyra** is the creator of "The Advenutres of Atomo and Weboy."*

Flamenco Kid

Carsy Araneta does what she loves to do

BY MAE ASTRID TOBIAS

WHEN you say dance lessons, the first thing that comes to mind is ballet. But not for Carsy Araneta. This 11-year-old from Assumption College prefers flamenco and jazz. In fact, every Saturday, she wakes up at 8 o' clock in the morning to prepare for her dance lessons.

"I have a busy day on Saturdays," she says. At 9 o' clock, her flamenco lessons start. After an hour and a half, she heads down to another studio and puts on her jazz shoes. Before, Carsy also took tap dancing and ballet lessons but she didn't really enjoy them.

"I don't think I was old enough to know what was really fun," she explains "The only reason I liked tap before was because of the shoes."

So when she asked her mother if she could take jazz lessons, her mother didn't allow her at first because she thought she might quit again.

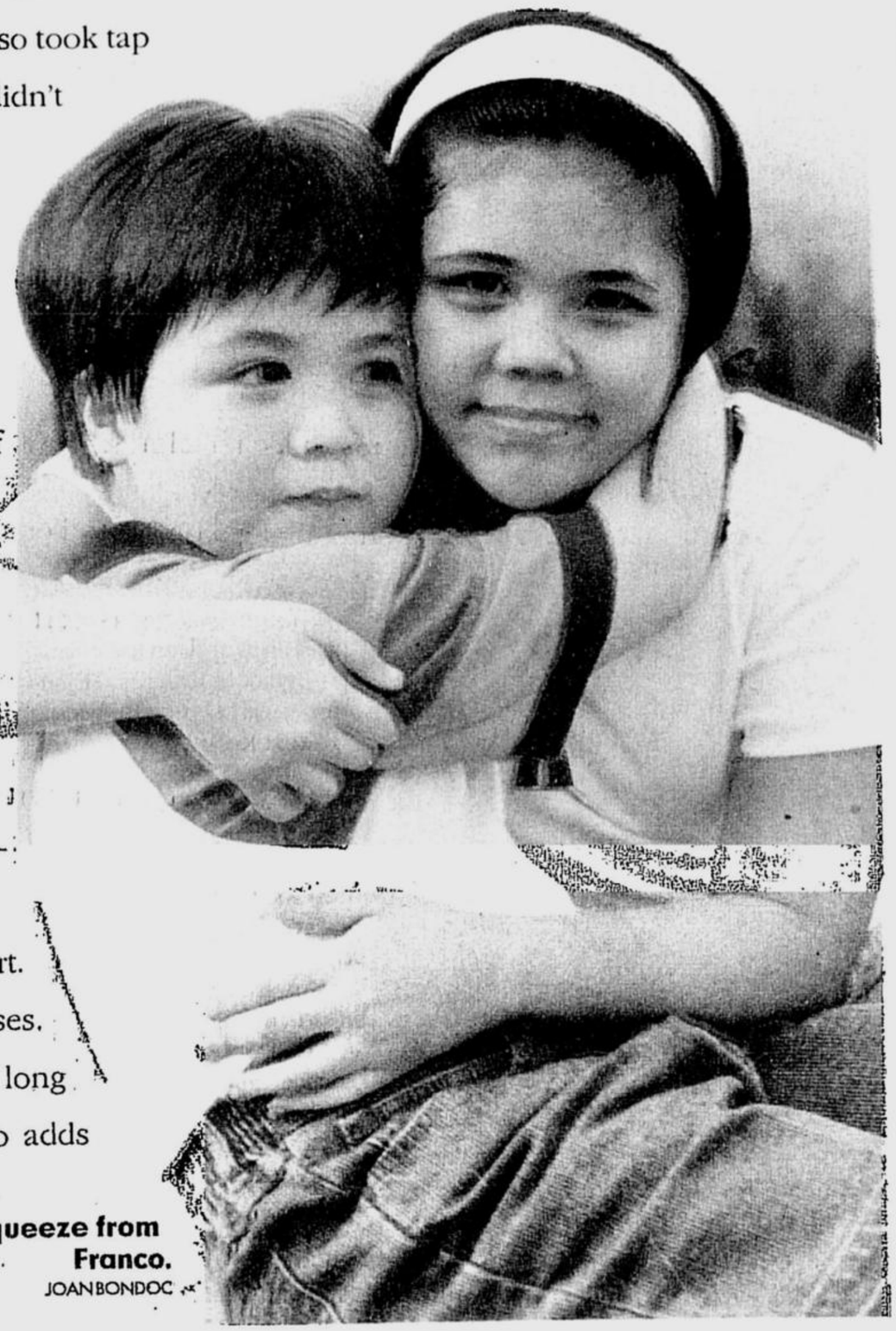
Finally Carsy convinced her mother to at least allow her to take a trial lesson. She hasn't stop taking the jazz lessons ever since.

"I wasn't really that good at the start. Nothing exceptional," Carsy confesses. "But now, I have been taking it for a long time, I can do more stuff. "She also adds that she even helps the newer students learn their steps.

If you ask Carsy what she really loves to do, she will give you an entirely different answer though.

"I love to draw," she says. "I can't stop drawing. I draw and I draw and I draw."

Carsy proudly pulls out her notebooks and albums from her cabinets to show her sketches, which are mostly faces of her favorite subjects—Mom, Dad and her younger brother, Franco.



HUG FROM BRO. Carsy gets a squeeze from Franco.
JOAN BONDOC

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid's'r'rific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at

_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

_____

Sender's Name:

_____

Sender's Age & School:

_____

Sender's Address:

_____

Sender's Contact No.

_____

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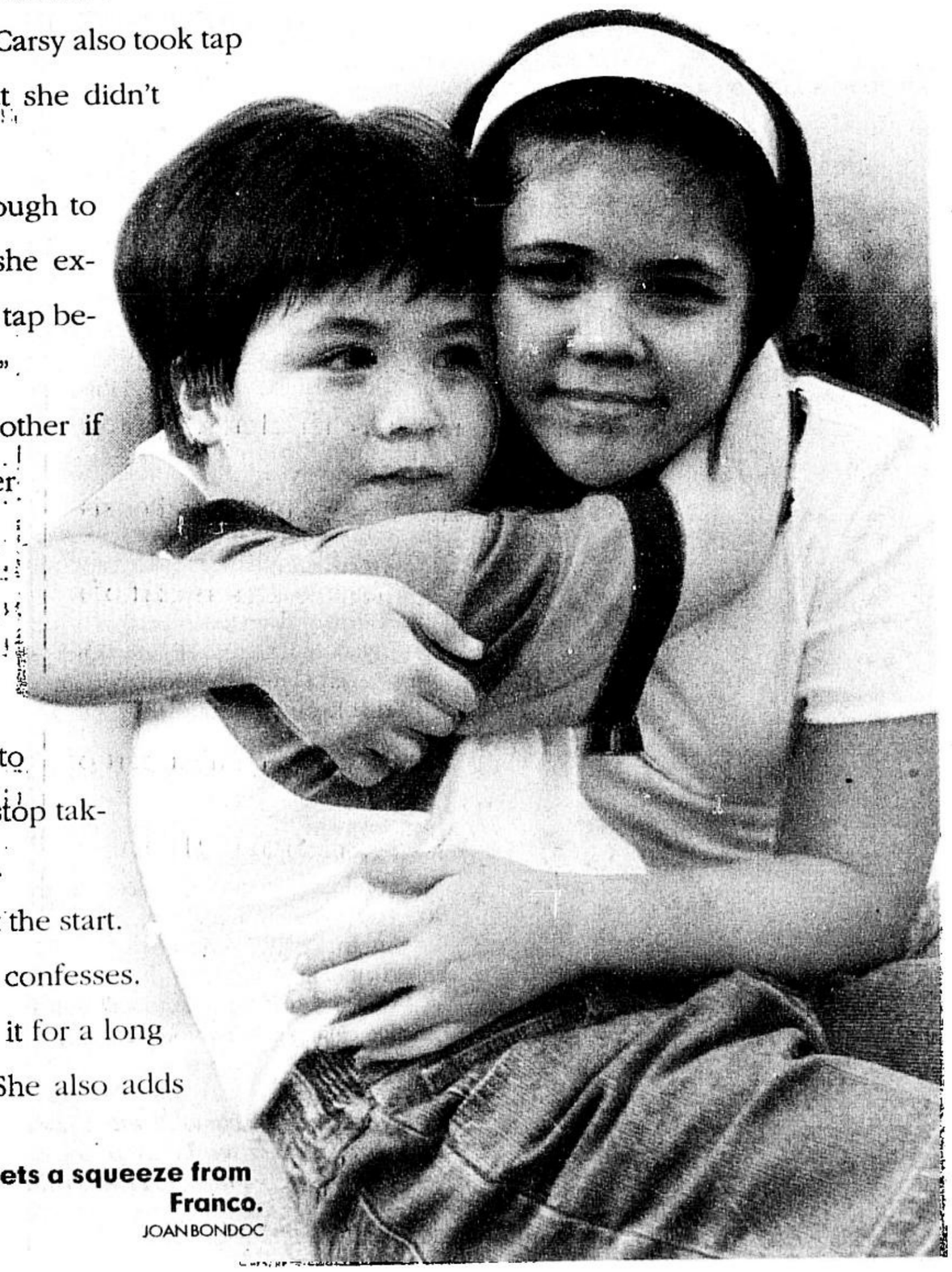

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and studies at

Her/his contact number is:

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Sender's Address:

Sender's Contact No.

LINE UP NOW! Teacher Me-An smiles with her rambunctious and chatty students. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Teacher by Night

EVERY Friday after class, many teenagers would go to malls and other gimmick places. But not Mary Ann L. Marasigan. She would rather spend the night as a volunteer teacher for street children in Sta. Cruz Church.

The street children ranging from 3 to 9 years of age or preschool to Grade 3. Some of these kids are the ones who can't even afford to go to public schools. *Ate* Me-an, as the children call her, starts her class at 7'o clock in the evening after the kids pray the rosary. She then teaches reading, writing, counting and drawing.

Ate Me-an became a teacher almost by accident. She just happened to tag along with her sister Lorena who was teaching the kids as part of a subject in school. By the time Me-an was freshman in college, she decided to become a part of the Volunteer Teachers organization in Manila.

"I'm not just here to teach them to value education," she says. "But to encourage them to look at life differently and more positively."

Angel Abegail B. Daylo

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

*Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, **YOU'LL** get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.
He/She is ____ years old and is my _____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____
and
5) _____

My nominee lives at _____
_____
Give him/her a call at _____ or send him/her an e-mail at _____.
By the way, I'm _____.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is _____.
You may call me at _____.

Trick or Truth?

WITH HALLOWEEN just around the corner, let's do a quiz on your knowledge of some celebrated monsters and spooks who inhabit the movies, literature, and folklore. In each number, just say whether the statement is either a "trick" (meaning, it's false) or the "truth." Happy haunting!

1. The legend of Count Dracula was based on a real human vampire who lived in Transylvania.
2. Frankenstein was created by a mad doctor.
3. A werewolf can be killed by a bullet, cane, or any other item that contains gold.
4. Despite its terrifying appearance, the *kapre* (or *cafre*), a creature that sits on a tree smoking a leg-sized cigar, is harmless.
5. According to the 1984 Steven Spielberg film production, gremlins should not be fed after lunchtime, otherwise they'll multiply.
6. A ghost that possesses or handles nonliving matter, pushing it around a room or rapping on walls, tables, ceilings, etc., is called a *goblin*.
7. Like vampires, zombies self-destruct when exposed to sunlight.
8. The *tikbalang* appears in the form of a beautiful baby that changes into a demon with a bald head, sharp jaws, pointed ears, and flaming eyes.
9. Real Egyptian mummies were wrapped in intricate bandaging of 150 yards or more of silk.
10. In the story written by Robert Louis Stevenson, Dr. Jekyll turns into the hideous Mr. Hyde by looking at a mirror.
11. A *manananggal*, or self-segmenter, uses her fangs in attacking victims.
12. Vampires supposedly hate garlic because of its bad smell.

Answers:

1. *Trick.* There was indeed a notorious 15th-century Transylvanian ruler named Vlad "Dracula." Tepes whose brutality against enemies inspired the Irish novelist Bram Stoker to write the novel "Dracula" in 1897. However, there is no connection between the historical Dracula and vampirism; the link is purely a literary one. Although the Romanian word *dracula* does mean "the devil," it also has the double meaning of "dragon," which was the title Vlad assumed in honor of his father, Vlad Senior, "the Dragon."
2. *Trick.* Frankenstein was not the name of the monster in Mary Shelley's famous 1818 novel. The monster never even had a name. Frankenstein was really Victor Frankenstein, the man who created the monster. And neither was he a doctor nor a medical student. Victor was just a young scientist whose desire to create life inadvertently led him to the making of the monster. Thus, to use Frankenstein as an equivalent of monster, as is often done, is incorrect. However, common usage has effected a curious transfer of the name from the creator to the thing created.
3. *Trick.* The element lethal to werewolves is silver.
4. *True.*
5. *Trick.* They are not to be fed after midnight, nor should they get wet.
6. *Trick.* It's called a *poltergeist*. A *goblin* is an ugly elf full of evil or mischief.
7. *Trick.*
8. *Trick.* The creature described is the *tiyanak*.
9. *Trick.* Linen was the preferred wrapping material.
10. *Trick.* An evil brew triggers the transformation:
11. *Trick.* A *manananggal* uses her retractable thread-like tongue.
12. *True.* Most sources feel it has to with the saying *similia similibus curantar*—"similar things are cured by similar things," as in fighting fire with fire. Since vampires, being corpses, were presumed to smell bad, it was believed they would be repelled by something that smelled equally bad. Hence the use of garlic.

Ratings :

QUEENIE'S Pet

BY ROBERT MAGNUSON

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Visit us at shirleyspets.cheesedip.com or Send email to shifu@animail.net

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

GMA & PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS.

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QUESTOR
THE ULTIMATE ANIME MAGAZINE

DAEWOO
DAEWOO ELECTRONICS

Custodian of Abu kidnap victims slain

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

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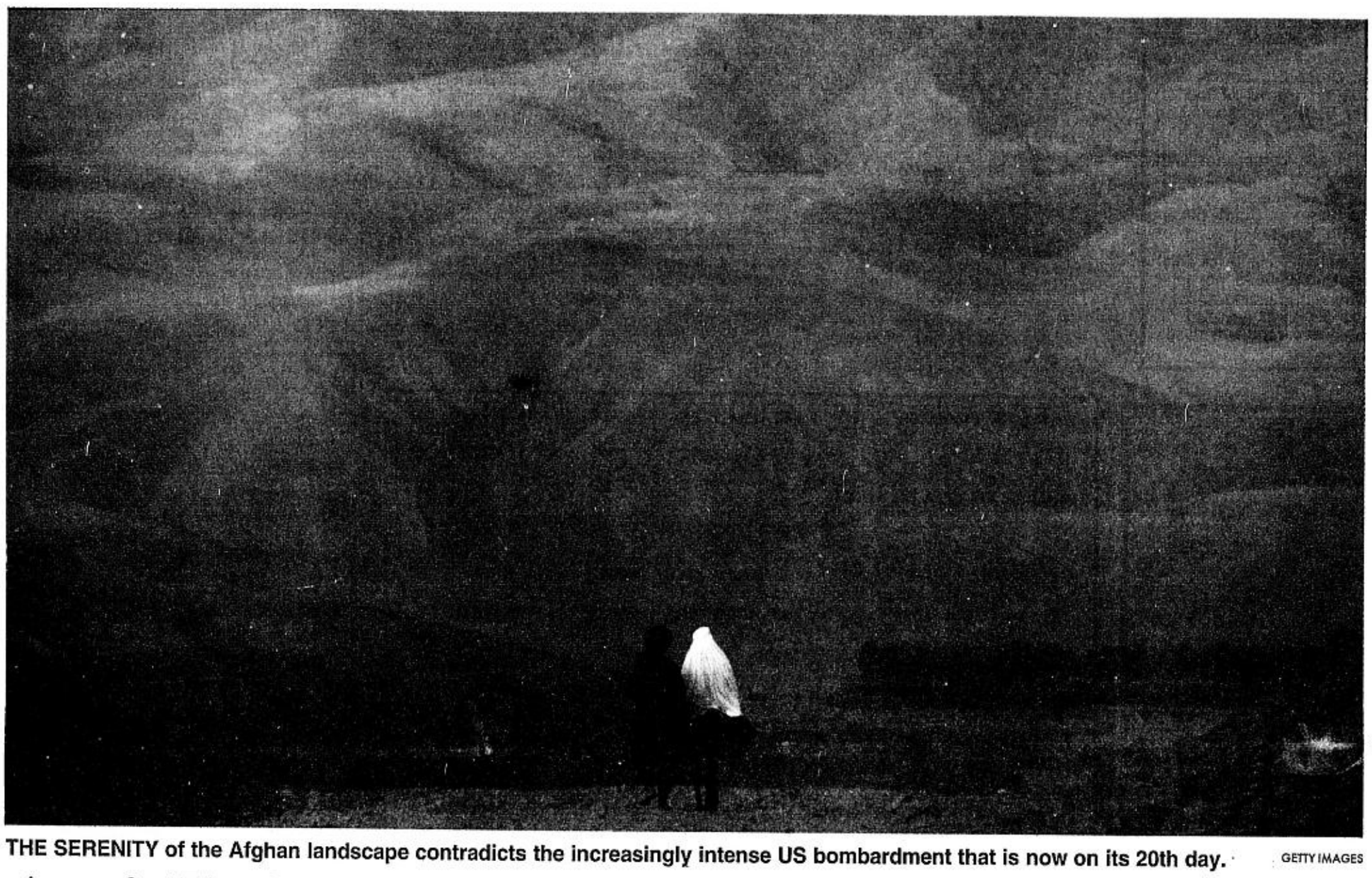
DE LEON

GMA told to ditch Mike



THE SERENITY of the Afghan landscape contradicts the increasingly intense US bombardment that is now on its 20th day. GETTY IMAGES

FVR budget chief airs curious call

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN, ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ AND AYAN C. MELLEJOR

BY her own estimation, President Macapagal-Arroyo is no shrinking violet.

At the first telecast yesterday of her new program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," the President said she had heard of talks about a coup attempt from her intelligence sources both within and outside the military and police.

"I think 'jittery' is not the word for me," she told interviewer Tina Monzon-Palma. "I don't give them a chance. What I want is, even if it's just a shadow of a threat it must be nipped in the bud."

At her press conference Friday in Malacañang, the President angrily denied the coup rumors that, she said, caused the peso's fall to P52 against the US dollar, and blamed the media for spreading the coup rumors.

But the President should not have been so angry if there were really no coup attempts, former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez Jr. said at the Kapihan sa Sulo Hotel in Quezon City.

Instead of venting her ire on the media, Enriquez said, the President should let her intelligence people do their job and get to the bottom of the rumors.

Enriquez also warned the President from supposedly focusing too much on the coming polls.

"She said she wants to serve the country," he said. "But she cannot focus on good governance because this early she's already busy preparing for the 2004 elections."

Enriquez also urged the President to "discard" some of her "baggage," which, he said, contributed to her administration's lack of focus.

GMA/ A18

Anti-Taliban leader, 5 commanders hanged

KABUL—The Taliban hanged five Northern Alliance commanders after executing a key opposition leader and renowned war hero who had crossed into Afghanistan to mobilize support for the exiled Afghan king.

US warplanes stepped up their bombardment of the capital Kabul amid reports that opposition leader Abdul Haq had been captured and put to death, dealing a heavy blow to attempts to unseat the Taliban regime.

The Taliban announced the executions on Saturday after the ruling militia repelled a Northern Alliance attack on Mazar-e-Sharif.

In Washington, the Pentagon acknowledged a US bomb again mistakenly struck International Red Cross warehouses in Kabul earlier in the week.

The mistaken strike on the Red Cross, the setback at Masar-e-Sharif and the execution of opposition leaders underscored the difficulties of the US campaign in Afghanistan and the resilience of the Taliban fighters.

The Taliban on Saturday claimed its fighters had beaten back a new opposition offensive in Samangan province at the Mazar-e-Sharif front.

Taliban forces captured five opposition commanders in Friday's battle, and immediately hanged them in public, Taliban officials told the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press.

On Friday, Taliban forces captured and hanged opposition leader Abdul Haq who had crossed into Afghanistan to convince Afghan tribal leaders to abandon the Taliban and throw their support behind exiled former Afghan king Mohammad Zaher Shah.

The Taliban denounced him as a US and British spy, and shot him under a religious edict demanding death for espionage.

Mostapha Zaher, grandson and chief spokesperson of the former king, said in Rome that "Afghanistan has lost one of its finest and greatest sons and I and my family have lost a great friend."

Haq's body and that of his two companions have been taken to

ANTI-TALIBAN/ A18

Gov't execs dared to live on ₱250/day

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA AND ALLAN A. NAWAL

GO ahead, try living on P250 a day.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday challenged Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, to live on workers' wages for a week and experience their difficulties in feeding their families and putting their children through school.

GOV'T/ A17

Little angel found inside carton box ends up in British home

BY DONNA S. CUETO

SHE was found lying inside a Maggie noodles carton box in a Batangas garbage dump. Nobody knew who her parents were, or why they abandoned her there when she was just two weeks old.

Alone and unwanted in that dirty, stinking heap of the community's waste, the baby miraculously survived.

A stranger found her in that pitiful state and brought her to a hospital. After two weeks, she was taken in by the Shalom "Bata" Rescue Center, a home for abandoned children run by a British couple—Rev. Ernie Fable and his wife, Shirley, in Merville, Parañaque.

There she stayed for three years and was called Sarah. She became the apple of everybody's eye.

Sarah was "very friendly and lovable," said Ms Fable.

"She was very popular and well-loved. She would always reach out to us with her arms wide open," Ms Fable said.

A year and a half ago in England, Stephen Boorman and his wife, Lydia, were searching for a child to adopt. They saw Sarah's picture in an advertisement by the Shalom rescue center and they felt an instant bonding with the girl.

It was as if the girl with the big smile was reaching out to the Boormans from across the great expanse of ocean that separated them.

When they learned that she was thrown in a garbage dump, their resolve to adopt her became stronger.

LITTLE/ A17

BETOY JOHNSON

FROM garbage heap to the British ambassador's residence in Forbes, Ellie May with adoptive father, Stephen Boorman, has come a long way.

A priest's life in the dumps uplifts poor in Payatas

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

FATHER NORNIELLA
JOAN BONDOC

FROM being hog-tied by armed robbers in 1995, to deciding not to recite a pastoral letter shortly before Edsa II to avoid provoking his "pro-Erap" flock, Argentinian missionary, Fr. Orlando Norniella, now knows all about life in the dumps.

"There's also poverty and corruption in the government back in Argentina, *pero mas malalim ang kahirapan dito. Grabe*," (The poverty is deeper here.) said Norniella, who could shame any *colegiala* with his surprisingly fluid Tagalog and very *Pinoy* humor. (After his interview with the INQUIRER last Wednesday, he repeatedly teased his shy, lady cook to fix herself up because she was next.)

Despite his collisions with local politics and his brush with danger, Norniella has built a parish in a depressed Quezon City village that currently funds close to 500 scholars, feeds malnourished children on weekdays, operates a clinic and runs a savings program inspired, ironically, by a book authored by a Muslim economist.

A PRIEST'S/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE

Priest weak, on the run

PAGADIAN CITY—Kidnapped Italian missionary Giuseppe Pierantoni is very weak and is always on the run with his captors, a civilian emissary said.

The civilian emissary, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Pierantoni now walks barefoot as the pair of sandal he wore when he was abducted on Oct. 17 was already worn out.

Pierantoni allegedly called on Zamboanga del Sur Bishop Zacarias Jimenez to send him rubber shoes. The priest, the emissary said, has difficulty walking barefoot because of the rugged terrain.

But the emissary said delivering the victim's request would be hard because the kidnappers and their victim are always on the run to evade the military.

The Italian priest and his captors were last sighted in the hinterlands of Kapatagan, Lanao del Sur. *Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Custodian of Abu kidnap victims slain

JOLO, Sulu—Government troops killed an Abu Sayyaf subcommander in an encounter at dawn yesterday in Barangay Kabatuhan, Ti-is in Talipao town.

Ustaz Ummal (Omar) Sahibul, who is listed in the military's order of battle and carried a P150,000 price on his head, was killed with four of his followers by the 53rd Scout Ranger Company led by Maj. Diocadio Manenggo.

Sahibul is a subcommander of the Abu Sayyaf group under Galib "Commander Robot" Andang, Mujib Susukan and Nadzmie Sabtullah.

During the Sipadan hostage crisis last year, Sahibul, who was encamped in a remote and inaccessible area of Samak in Talipao, was known as the "custodian" of several kidnap victims.

Kidnap planner

Sabtullah, who was arrested in July, is believed to have planned the kidnapping of three Americans and 17 Filipinos from the Dos Palmas resort last May 27.

He also helped lead the kidnapping of 21 people from a dive resort in Sipadan, Malaysia, last year.

The same 53rd Scout Ranger Company also figured in an encounter with the bandit group last Sunday that resulted in seven Abu Sayyaf members killed and four wounded.

Manenggo, who was earlier reported as having been killed in Sunday's encounter, reported that except for two rangers suffering minor wounds, there were no casualties on the government side.

But even as the military reported that the casualties in Sunday's encounter were from the Abu Sayyaf, the chair of the regional reconciliation and unification commission (RRUC) of the Moro National Liberation Front, insisted that they were MNLF fighters.

Ustadz Habir Malik claimed that the military had entered a duly recognized MNLF camp commanded by Ustadz Mahmur Gardan, and not an Abu Sayyaf lair.

Gov't ID cards

Found in the wallet of the dead Sahibul were two identification cards. One identified him as an MNLF member, the other as barangay chair of Kabatuhan, where both encounters took place.

The ID card was issued by the provincial office of the interior department.

The military insists, however, that the scene of Sunday's encounter was not a recognized MNLF camp and that they acted on the basis of intelligence reports confirming the presence of Andang and Susukan in the premises.

Gardan, however, claimed that the area had been "identified and included among the recognized MNLF camps in the (1996 GRP-MNLF) peace agreement, and even the Southern Command knows about this."

Explaining the presence of Susukan and Andang, he said "they are the relatives of people on the other side," without elaborating.

In the same radio interview, Malik said "this was not the only time it happened. It seems these mistakes are occurring more often."

Attacked by mistake

Last year, three similar encounters were reported to the INQUIRER by MNLF commanders who claimed their camp had been attacked by mistake, the military believing them to be Abu Sayyaf members, or sympathizers and coddlers.

A commanding officer of a Scout Ranger unit—a major who was the subject of a complaint for accusing an MNLF district commander of being an Abu Sayyaf member—expressed his frustration at what he said were unclear demarcations between legitimate MNLF areas and bandit camps.

"We know the Abu Sayyaf freely roam their areas. They do not report this to us, much less drive away these bandits. Under the peace agreement that they keep pointing to, they are supposed to do that. Are we supposed to determine their identity before we fire back when they are already shooting at us? Whose side are they on anyway?" said the major, who just the day before had lost several of his men. *Noralyn Mustafa, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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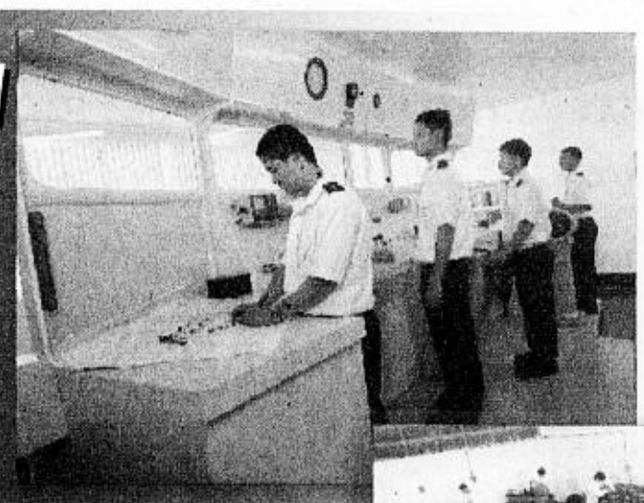

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Lacson off to US amid coup rumors

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

SEN. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson quietly left for Hong Kong and the United States yesterday, amid rumors implicating him in yet another coup attempt against the Macapagal administration.

Lacson's departure caught military intelligence by surprise.

So surprised that intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus had to thank the INQUIRER for informing him.

"Perhaps he has things to take care of in Hong Kong, with all his bank accounts there," Corpus said.

Corpus said Lacson was probably rushing to get witnesses "to support his claim that he has no bank accounts."

"But we have evidence to prove otherwise," he said.

Gerry de Belen, Lacson's media relations officer, said Lacson was on his way to California for "consultations with the Filipino community there.

LACSON

Lacson and his son, Panfilo Jr., left on a Hong Kong-bound Cathay Pacific flight at about noon yesterday. He said he would be back after the Halloween break, possibly on Nov. 5.

The Senate is on a two-week recess. Most senators are abroad, either on official missions or on holiday.

Lacson said he hoped that reports linking him to destabilization attempts would die down during his absence.

"They have been accusing me of just about anything," Lacson told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The senator tried to make his departure as quiet as possible, foregoing the VIP treatment usually used by legislators.

Lacson's archenemy, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, the PNP Region III director, accused Lacson of being the leader of destabilization moves against the administration.

Earlier, the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino claimed in a statement that a military clique within Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame was planning a coup that would install a civilian military junta, with Berroya as PNP chief.

This is Lacson's second trip abroad since becoming a senator.

He left last month amid charges by the Intelligence Service of the AFP that he was deeply involved in money laundering and other criminal activities.

He is believed to have gone to the United States to secure documents to counter Corpus' charges. *With reports from Cathy C. Yamsuan and Cynthia D. Balana*

Religious pray for peace

BY M. DOYO

UNDER THE SHADE of trees, without much fanfare and far from public attention, a group of peace seekers and peacemakers met for a Day of Prayer for World Peace last Friday at the Quezon Memorial Circle. They gathered beside the huge World Peace Bell that was solemnly rung several times to sound their call for peace.

Meanwhile, a group of New York nuns issued a statement related to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States and sent this to their Philippine counterparts. They denounced "the rhetoric of war" and retaliation and sought solidarity with other peacemakers.

The peace advocates gathered at the Circle together recited their desire "to end this nonsensical war, and re-cloak this Creation again under the mantle of Peace." In their statement they made a jab at globalization by saying that "peace should be the only thing that should be globalized."

Representatives from Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Baha'i groups reflected, sang, prayed and offered peace symbols to express the desire to stop terrorism and military action that could lead to a full-blown war.

Ustadz Ayub Khan called on "Allah the Beneficent and the Merciful" while Sheila Managayo of the Baha'i faith prayed for God's blessings on all. Everyone joined hands and recited the "Lord's Prayer." Ric Reyes of Daupang Palad gave a situationer that focused on the deep-rooted causes of the conflict in the Middle East and the role of the United States vis-à-vis the Arab nations, the Palestinians and Israel.

Participants silently went around with posters with images of war and its consequences—death, exploitation of children and women, poverty, destruction of the environment, displacement and division.

In their peace statement they also stressed that although the terrorists had committed a grave violation of the rights of the citizens of the United States, "it is not right for America to violate the rights of the Afghan people...War should never be the solution for there are no winners abut all are losers."

A "peaceful resolution" is the only recourse, the statement said. It was signed by Forum for Muslim-Christian Solidarity, Daupang Palad Jubilee Network, Franciscan Movement for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Moro Human Rights Center, Al Fatihah Foundation, Bangsa Bai, Kaalagad, Association of Major Religious Superiors, Task Force Mindanao and Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates.

Meanwhile, the New York nuns of the Religious of the Good Shepherd, an international congregation, issued a statement denouncing "the rhetoric of war" and retaliation.

The Good Shepherd Sisters of New York sent a copy of their statement to their sisters around the world including their Philippine counterparts.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

CANELAR TRADING CENTER
Zamboanga City
October 18, 2001

Her Excellency
President GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Malacañang Palace
Manila

Madam President:

Greetings!

IS THERE JUSTICE WHEN PROPERTIES WITH AGGREGATE ESTIMATED VALUE OF P200-MILLION BELONGING TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, THE ULAMA MUSLIM GROUP AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES BE AWARDED TO A DISMISSED EMPLOYEE WITH A P90-THOUSAND CLAIM?

We, stall holders of **CANELAR TRADING CENTER**, cry for justice and equity against the ruling of the NATIONAL LABOR RELATION COMMISSION (NLRC) – Regional Arbitration Branch no. IX.

We are among the 2,120 members of the ZAMBOANGA BARTER TRADE KILUSANG BAYAN, INC. (ZBTKBI) or popularly known as "BARTER TRADERS" who contributed to buy a 1. 37-HECTARE PRIME lot in Canelar. The government, by virtue of the donation, erected P5-Million building thereat. Likewise, the MUSLIM ULAMA GROUP constructed a mosque and office building there. A number of our co-members/co-stallholders are former rebels who surrendered during the administration of the late President Marcos. The Barter Trade was abolished in 1986 and the barter traders owned stalls located at downtown PETTIT BARRACKS area were burned down in 1987. Despite these odds, the MUSLIM and CHRISTIAN members had organized themselves, rebuilt their stalls within the P5-Million government building and continued the business thru conventional trading. By conservative estimate, there are at least 20,000 people dependents on these business activities.

After years of struggling against all odds, we have been notified that a certain **Mr. Teofisto Mendoza,** a dismissed employee of the ZBTKBI, who after winning a labor case was able to buy and acquire the 1.37 hectare lot and all the improvements existing thereon in the amount equivalent to the award in the decision of the NLRC, that is P 90,000.00 more or less.

We feel that definitely there are something wrong with the NLRC rulings enumerated as follows:

FIRST, the manner in which the NLRC ordered the execution of its judgement is contrary to rule having been issued after five years. The rules require that a judgment maybe executed on motion within five (5) years from date of its entry or from date it becomes final and executory. After lapse of said time, said judgment has to be enforced by a separate action (Rule 39 Sec 6 of RULES OF COURT and sec 224 of LABOR CODE). SECOND, the NLRC Sheriff, who by virtue of a writ of execution to collect cash, or in the event there is no cash, to cause the satisfaction of the same on the movable properties of the ZBTKBI, just cause the levy on a real property belonging to the Republic of the Philippines. At the time the sheriff did the levy, the ZBTKBI had cash and movable properties located at the Canelar Trading Center which were more than enough to satisfy the judgment (The 1997 Rules of CIVIL PROCEDURES Rule 39 section 9B). THIRD, the property in question was sold at a public auction with only one (1) bidder MR. MENDOZA himself, for the sum of P96, 433.53 only. We, ORDINARY STALLHOLDERS, were never notified and given the opportunity to redeem or pay the measly amount of P90-Thousand.

FOURTH and most important is that the lot is a government property. A P5-Million government building was erected thereon. Inspite of these facts, the NLRC has still awarded these properties to the dismissed employee.

Your EXCELLENCY, we are appealing to you TO ORDER A REVIEW of the foregoing facts done by the NLRC which may give rise to newly found evidence which may ultimately give us JUSTICE. The NLRC, being under the Department of Labor and Employment, is under your good office.

We are presently fighting for our sublime rights in the Supreme Court since there are glaring violations of PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS. Accordingly, the ZBTKBI lost the case because it failed to appeal its case in time, which is also procedural.

We were SHOCKED also when we were informed that the title of the Republic of the Philippines was cancelled and a new title was issued to MR. TEOFISTO MENDOZA as of September 21, 2001 when that case is still on appeals with the Supreme Court. There is also an RTC-Zamboanga City resolution, which dismissed a petition of MR. MENDOZA for REVERSION of OWNERSHIP and CANCELLATION of title over the said property in his favor.

We have high hopes that we shall ultimately get JUSTICE in the end.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL.

Very respectfully yours,

CONCERNED MEMBERS/STALL HOLDERS

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Missing DPWH exec surfaces, faces probe

BY ARMAND NOCUM

FORMER PUBLIC WORKS Southern Luzon regional director Romeo Panganiban, who was earlier reported kidnapped, is now safely back with his family, but is in danger of losing his job.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong said Panganiban had resurfaced and had claimed he was not abducted at all.

But he faces dismissal if he fails to give a credible explanation on his disappearance, the secretary said.

Datumanong also said he had ordered a background and lifestyle check of all Department of Public Works and Highways officials, including undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, regional directors, bureau heads and district engineers to find out whether they are "similarly situated" as Panganiban.

Panganiban, who is now without an assignment, is said to own several luxury cars and luxurious homes and maintains a lifestyle way beyond his means as a government official.

In a telephone interview, Datumanong said he had already ordered assistant secretary Jesus Cammacho, Panganiban's immediate superior, to present the latter this week.

"We want to know from him the real story behind his supposed abduction," said Datumanong, noting that some reports show that Panganiban simply took a vacation.

"If he denies having been kidnapped and say he only took a short vacation, then that will be fatal for him. He's a government official and he cannot just go on leave without seeking permission from us," he said.

Panganiban was reported to have been kidnapped Monday and kidnappers were allegedly demanding P100 million in ransom, an amount the flamboyant DPWH official allegedly possesses.

"Which way he explains his disappearance, he is in big trouble," Datumanong said, adding that if Panganiban fails to surface soon, that will also serve as a ground for his suspension or dismissal.

Datumanong said he was informed by people close to Panganiban that the former Region 4 director simply took sanctuary in the house of his brother Dennis, the mayor of Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The public works secretary said he would conduct a "department-wide" investigation on other alleged "secret millionaires" at the DPWH.

"I will ask all of them to submit their statements of assets and liabilities that we may check these against the way they are actually living," he said.

Datumanong said he may even seek the help of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption under Dante Jimenez to spot allegedly corrupt DPWH men.

To make bidding at the department more transparent, he said he had entered into a memorandum of understanding with the VACC for members of the anti-crime crusaders to act as civilian "observers" in the DPWH bidding.

He said he also authorized the resident Ombudsman to sit in the bidding proceedings.

"This is to ensure that there will be little room left for graft and corruption in bidding proceedings," he said.

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HK woman gets 7 months for RP maid's abuse

HONG KONG—A wealthy Hong Kong housewife was sentenced to seven months in jail for attacking her Filipino live-in maid with thumbtacks, scissors and a broom, court officials and local media said Saturday.

Sek Siu-fun, convicted earlier on two counts of assault causing bodily harm, was sentenced Friday for abusing Anafer Galanza Grospe in February at her home in Stanley, a luxurious residential area.

According to media reports, Grospe testified that Sek kicked her leg after saying she worked too slowly, pricked her head, shoulder and arms with thumbtacks, cut her hair with scissors and beat her with a broom.

Magistrate Symon Wong reportedly called the attacks "premeditated, brutal and showed no respect to the victim."

Grospe's supporters welcomed the verdict.

"On the part of the Filipinos, I salute her for being strong in pushing through the case," said Connie Bragas-Regalado, chair of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong.

"This is a piece of good information for everyone: if you stand for your rights, there is still hope," she said. *AP*

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Women in politics tackled in conference

THE ENTRY of women into politics and governance as a positive change in the traditional societies of Asia and the Pacific is among the topics for discussion in a conference on women's issues set on Nov. 8-10.

The Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (Capwip) and the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) will hold the Congress on Media and Transformative Leadership at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center in Makati City. The conference will include training sessions on media and governance as well as change-oriented leadership for women in politics.

Blaine Lee, author of "The Power Principle: Influence with Honor," will give the keynote address. A press conference with Lee will follow at 10 a.m., after the opening ceremonies.

Lee, who was twice given the Outstanding Young Men in America award, is a fellow of the Covey Leadership Center, the world's premier time-management and leadership-development authority.

The Capwip is a non-partisan, non-profit, non-government organization committed to advocacy for equal participation of women in politics and decision-making, and dedicated to the promotion of the culture of transformative leadership among women in politics, governance and decision-making in the Asia-Pacific.

The CMFR is a private, non-profit and non-stock Philippine-based organization. Its programs are designed to promote competence and responsibility as a way of protecting and strengthening press freedom.

It has published sourcebooks that establish frameworks of understanding issues of politics, reproductive health, population, labor and migration from the perspective of women. It conducts a media monitor and gender watch in news coverage through its publications, among them the Philippine Journalism Review.

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Joe de V stands by House OK of ₱780-B budget

BY J. JAVELLANA

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia yesterday stood by the House majority's approval of the P780.8-billion 2002 national budget despite a minority plan to take the matter to the Supreme Court.

De Venecia said he had assured President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that the budget's approval on second reading early last Friday was legal and constitutional.

The House minority, composed of 18 members, walked out of the plenary debates, their leaders arguing that proceeding with the House session after 12 midnight was illegal and unconstitutional after the session of both houses of Congress had adjourned at 12 midnight on Oct. 25.

But De Venecia said the approval could no longer and should not be undone.

"There is nothing (to undo). We have approved the budget," he said.

"They (minority) were nitpicking on the clock. They wanted us to stop the clock but we said no because we are allowed to continue (sessions) for not more than three days (after the other chamber has adjourned)," De Venecia said.

De Venecia said he phoned the President on Friday and told her the budget would be approved on schedule. He said she was "very happy, she congratulated me and the House leaders."

De Venecia said the approved budget bill would next go for a third and final reading during the first two days of the resumed session on Nov. 12.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the new budget could be signed into law by the President by early December, after the measure is finalized by the bicameral committee.

Gonzales, chair of the rules committee, dismissed the minority's threat to go to the Supreme Court.

"If they want to look ridiculous, they are most welcome to do that," Gonzales said.

He said the minority threat to take the matter to the high court was premature because the budget was approved only on second reading and has not yet become a law.

He said there was "no way" the high court could step into the issue because there is as yet no "justiciable" controversy.

Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, said the minority's challenge would "not stop us from doing our job."

De Venecia said the minority's move was deplorable as they would be derailing the passage of a measure that finances the entire government and pays the salary of millions of public servants.

"This is not the time for politicking," De Venecia said.

'Dishonest' exec fights dismissal from Customs

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

A RANKING Customs official, who was dismissed for faking his school records, is doing all he can to hold on to his post and is now allegedly trying to get back at those who caused his dismissal.

Virgilio Danao, director of the bureau's Enforcement and Security Services, continues to hold office while the Ombudsman's office waits to decide on the motion he filed for a reconsideration of his dismissal last Oct. 1.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto ordered Danao dismissed for faking his scholastic records.

He was found guilty of dishonesty by the Ombudsman Administrative Adjudicial Bureau.

Although Danao filed the motion last Oct. 5, his case has remained unresolved for weeks.

Meanwhile, members of an importers' group that reportedly incurred Danao's wrath, have complained of being allegedly harassed by him and have asked for an immediate resolution of the case.

A motion for reconsideration should be resolved within five days, said the Philippine Chamber of Importers (PCII), noting that it has been 20 days since the motion was filed.

PCII president George Agregado cited Section 27 of Republic Act 6770 governing the effectivity and finality of the Ombudsman's decisions.

The law states: All provisionary orders of the Office of the Ombudsman are immediately effective and exccutory.

A motion for reconsideration must be filed within five days after receipt of the written notice.

"The delay is adding fuel to the flaming rumors that Virgilio M. Danao cannot be dismissed from government service because he is the nephew of the Supremo of a very powerful and influential religious organization," Agregado said.

Danao is a member of the Iglesia ni Cristo.

"The delay is causing anxiety and fear among importers, especially members of the PCII because Danao is accusing some of them of following up the case at the Ombudsman," said Agregado.

He said some investors belonging to the PCII have complained of alleged harassment by Danao's men, forcing them to cancel their import orders.

He also asked Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva to "immediately recall" the appointment of Danao as ESS director to stop him from using his post to get back at those who worked for his dismissal.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Danao, but he was unavailable.

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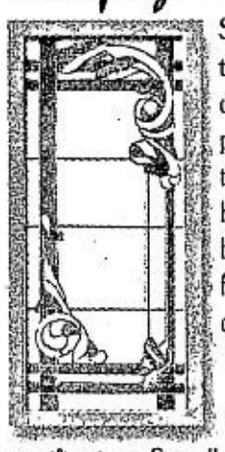

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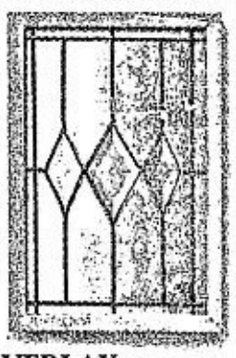

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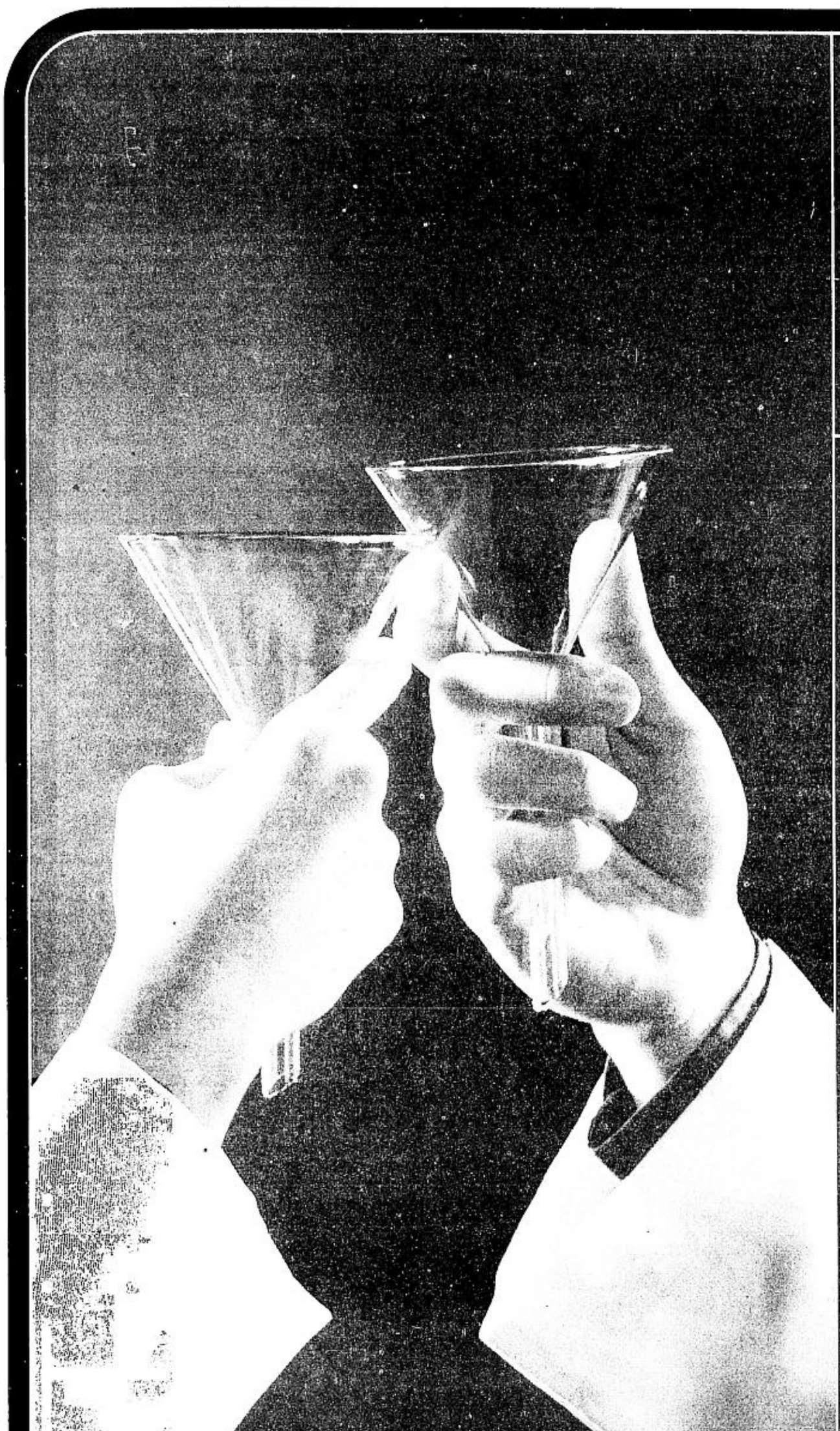

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Nene: No evidence yet vs Ping, Mike A

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE SEPARATE Senate investigations of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo on their alleged abuses have so far not yielded any solid evidence to warrant their prosecution.

Because of this Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel said it would be unfair to condemn any of the two just because the media have been harping on them.

Lacson is being investigated for his alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade and money-laundering activities while Arroyo's involvement in the telecoms franchise and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office fund scandals is still being established.

Pimentel said the rule of law requires evidence to establish liability.

Even Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar said he was disappointed at the prospect of the Senate being used to persecute Lacson without any solid evidence on the part of the accusers.

Villar said it turned out that Lacson's accusers, specifically Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp), merely used and dragged the Senate into the controversy.

He said he would rather let the court handle all the cases against Lacson to give the beleaguered senator a chance to defend himself.

The Senate has been looking into Arroyo's role in the P40-million bribe attempt for the recall of the presidential veto of a telecommunications franchise and public relations fund of the PCSO in the last senatorial campaign.

"In the Mike Arroyo investigation, there is still no direct evidence linking him to the bribery case or to the misuse of PCSO money," Pimentel said in Davao City.

"Neither has any solid evidence linking Senator Lacson to the drug trade has been submitted," he added.

Pimentel said persons could be maligned and reputations could be destroyed irreparably if the Senate investigations would yield nothing in the end.

"I am sure that our people, especially those who have no power or connections with the powerful, would not want that to happen to them and would understand why we must insist on upholding the rule of law," he said.

On the telecommunications franchise, Pimentel said, former Malacañang confidential secretary Veronica Rodrigo testified at the last Senate hearing that she had only heard about the bribery attempt from a certain Malou Nuñez, a former consultant at the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Pimentel said that Rodrigo herself admitted that she had no direct knowledge about the bribery.

Nuñez is reportedly in the United States and has snubbed an invitation by the Senate to testify in the hearing.

On the alleged use of PCSO funds to bankroll the campaign of four People Power Coalition candidates in the last election, Pimentel said all that was established so far was that former consultant and whistle-blower Robert Rivero was alleged instructed by Arroyo to single out the four candidates for propaganda assistance with PCSO money.

The four candidates were Senators Joker Arroyo and Juan Flavier, former senator Ernesto Herrera and former Bulacan governor Roberto Pagdanganan.

It's China today, US next month, Europe next year

IT'S off to Europe next year for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President yesterday announced that she would visit Germany, the United Kingdom and Switzerland next year, sometime before the end of February.

Nine months into office, Ms Macapagal has gone on five overseas trips—to Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Japan and most recently, China where she attended the 9th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit.

In the next four weeks, she will visit five more countries.

After a few days' "stopover" in the country following her last trip, she returns to China today for a three-day state visit.

She is also scheduled to go to Brunei for the 7th Asean Summit on Nov. 5-6. After a week, she leaves again, this time for Indonesia, the United States and Mexico.

Ms Macapagal said she had accepted the invitation of Germany and the United Kingdom due to their "strategic importance" to the country.

She said she had also accepted the invitation to speak before the World Economic Forum to be held in Davos, Switzerland.

Malacañang is reportedly still arranging for a visit to Spain.

Gloria defends 'death' reversal

PRESIDENT Macapagal yesterday defended her decision to allow the execution of convicted kidnappers, saying it was needed to stop gangs operating from prisons.

Ms Macapagal said in a television interview that she reversed her earlier decision to commute all death sentences because leaders of kidnap gangs could order abductions even after being jailed.

"Many of these kidnapping syndicates, their masterminds are behind bars, (but) they continue their crimes. They have cellular phones. They issue orders, even behind bars," she said.

She said one convicted kidnapper would be executed next year.

Earlier this month, the President said she would allow executions, saying the government needed to "strike fear" into the hearts of criminals amid a wave of kidnappings that has shaken business confidence.

Kidnappings for ransom, often targeting the affluent ethnic Chinese community, have hurt the Philippines' image and prompted Ms Macapagal to take a harsher stance.

But her rethink was harshly condemned by the dominant Roman Catholic church and human rights advocates who said it went against her earlier commitment not to carry out executions during her term.

Ms Macapagal, responding to church accusations that there were seven minors on death row, said she would not allow minors to be executed.

She said it was improper for minor convicts to be jailed, stating they should be turned over to social welfare officials. *AFP*

SC gives 2 rapists different verdicts

THE SUPREME Court has affirmed the three death sentences imposed on a man who thrice raped his 16-year-old daughter in 1996. But in another case, it acquitted a man earlier convicted for what it called "consensual rape."

In a full court decision promulgated early this week, the Supreme Court said the Regional Trial Court in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, was right when it sentenced a father to suffer three death penalties, saying that the daughter's testimony "is entitled to full faith and credit."

In the other case, the Supreme Court laid down a new doctrine on rape, saying a rapist in a "consensual rape" (with victim's consent) has no criminal liability whatsoever.

The high court acquitted rape convict Dindo Amogis after a review of the case showed that it was a "consensual rape" between two "sexually-starved" participants. *Michael Lim Ubac*

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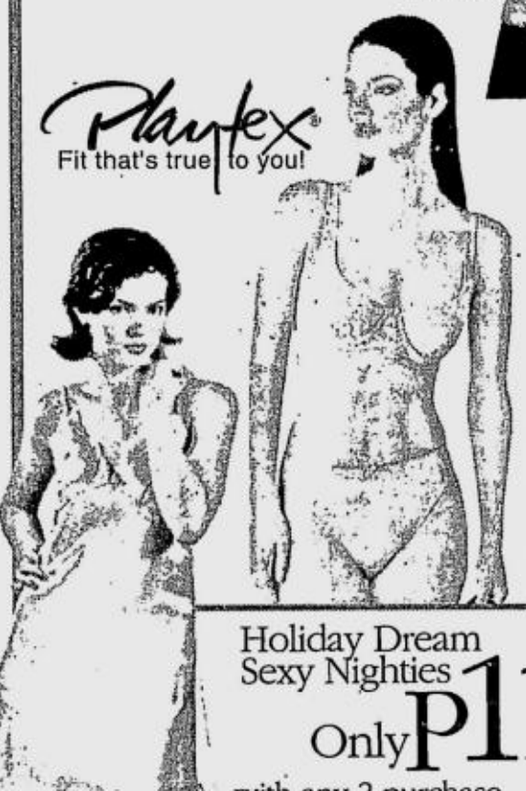

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Death in Davao

LAST Wednesday, early in the evening, a teenager playing cards with his neighbors in Davao City was shot dead by motorcycle-riding gunmen. The reason for his execution: he was a suspected drug pusher. His executioners, identifiable by their gun-and-run style, were members of the so-called Davao Death Squad.

EDITORIAL

The 17-year-old's death brought the total number of vigilante killings to 15, since the Death Squad started knocking off suspected drug pushers on Sept. 20. It won't be the last.

Davao's tough-talking mayor, Rodrigo Duterte, is believed by many in the city to have implicitly sanctioned the killings. He has not given any orders for Davao's conscientious citizens to take the law into their own hands. In fact, he has said several times that he condemns the killings, and that the drug problem must be solved within the bounds of the law. But at the same time he has vowed to solve the problem by December this year, and he has used his influential radio program to name people either proven or suspected to be drug pushers or peddlers. These two acts, taken in the context of his previous terms as city mayor, have led many people—and not only in Davao—to believe that, while he may not have turned a blind eye to the killings, he may be, at the very least, merely winking at them.

The killing spree has prompted the city council to issue a resolution calling on the Commission on Human Rights, the local police and the National Bureau of Investigation to investigate the matter immediately. But local police officials have already telegraphed their answers. They have unfailingly identified all the victims as suspected pushers or as persons on their watch list. And they have also said they couldn't be sure if there was really such a thing as a Davao Death Squad or its Johnny-come-lately copycat, Los Pepes.

The city's population reportedly has mixed feelings about the killings. This is understandable; it does not make them any different from other residents in other cities, who have grown weary of the government's seeming inability to curb crime and stop the drug menace. In the fancy restaurants of any city, over the dining tables of middle-class subdivisions, at almost every corner *sari-sari* store, the death of unsavory characters believed or proven to be dealing in drugs is welcome news. But it is not necessarily good news.

Any short-term result gained from taking the law into one's hands pales, compared to what is lost over the long term: the rule of law itself.

Does this sound like old-fashioned, bleeding-heart liberalism? Only to those who are confident that the finger of suspicion will never point in their direction.

Suspicion, however, is all it takes, for a death squad to come roaring down the corner with all guns blazing. Unfortunately, suspicion is also cheap. In a culture prone to all forms of gossip, it is easy to cast aspersions on someone's character, to imply that a policeman is crooked, that someone's neighbor is a tax evader, that that teenager across the street who stays up late all night listening to loud music must be pushing shabu.

For vigilantes, evidence that would stand up in court is mere detail, an inconvenience. This is not to say that they don't have a basis for their belief that a certain person is guilty of a certain crime. They may be—they usually are—sincere in their convictions. But the process they take to reach a verdict short-circuits the necessarily tedious process provided for by the rule of law. They may be victims of the drug scourge, but they are also judge and executioner rolled into one.

It is not as if we have not been through this pass before. The Alsa Masa phenomenon, which started in Davao itself in 1987, was a reaction to the growing communist threat in the area. But in the defense of liberty, many liberties were taken. After all the controversy and the turmoil, the toll in human life, it was left to the Alsa Masa founder, radio commentator Jun Pala, to admit, years later, that the root problem—poverty, which explains why people take up arms against the government and why they succumb to substance abuse—remained unaddressed.

Arrogant security guards

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A READER writes to report the abusive treatment of her driver by the security guards at the Southville gate of the BF Homes in Parañaque. Ms Miren E. Fuentes says that they required him to alight from her car, forcibly scraped off the sticker that they claimed was fake, and threatened to handcuff and take him to the National Bureau of Investigation. They also wanted to fine him P1,000 for using a fake sticker.

When her office manager showed them the official receipt for the removed sticker, they pasted another sticker on the car and magisterially dismissed them. Ms Fuentes tried to complain to the president of the homeowners' association, who was allegedly at a meeting the first time she called and was not in the next time. There was no apology from him either.

If memory serves, my friend Adrian E. Cristobal also complained about the arbitrary security guards in his own village when he was writing his column on this space. (Hi, Adrian!) My wife had her own experience with another arrogant security guard and also put him in his place. (My wife scolds everybody.) She also complained to the guard's superiors who apologized for the man's misbehavior and correctly banished him from his post. I've never seen that rascal again.

Without vouching for the veracity of Ms Fuentes' report (although I have no reason to doubt her), I will say that the incident she relates is typical of the attitude and conduct of many security guards. I do not speak of the criminals among them who have been implicated in many inside jobs like kidnappings and bank robberies. I am talking of the ordinary security guard who has convinced himself that the uniform he wears and the weapon he carries have authorized him to be as insolent as a policeman.

The ordinary security guard can in fact be more impudent than the policeman who is at least given some basic training on public relations and common courtesy. He is also taught the rudiments of criminal law and procedure. To my knowledge, the security guard is not similarly instructed and, if the reports are true, some of them cannot even adeptly handle a gun. Perhaps that is why they choose to exhibit their power by tyrannizing ordinary drivers and meek-looking housewives.

Some of them act only as doormen or in some eateries as supplementary waiters. They are also supposed to be deterrents to crime by intimidating would-be trespassers to the premises they are protecting. A few of them look puny for the job although, as I recollect, their predecessor some decades ago was no less imposing. This was the familiar turbaned and bearded *bumbay* who, when he was not selling *tela* and whatnots on installment, was an effective sentinel at night.

This sleepless sentry had only a *batuta* and a flashlight as his equipment but the bad guys cautiously kept away from him during his watch. The security guards nowadays are not as daunting with their weapons and braggadocio.

To be fair, there are many security guards who are a credit to their occupation. The guards at my village are courteous and friendly and patrol our streets round the clock. Some incidents have escaped them, though, as when thugs or worse broke into Teddy Benigno's house not once but twice to warn him to keep his mouth shut. (He hasn't.) There are also not many graffiti on our walls because of our motorized guards on the prowl for those demented vandals.

We should not resent it if security guards prevent the entry into private premises of persons without car stickers or proper identification. This is a reasonable precaution against the disturbance of the peace and order of the community. Otherwise, criminals and unwelcome strangers like panhandlers and sales agents would have free roam to molest the residents.

I remember one incident when a senator bullied a security guard who would not allow him to enter a subdivision for lack of a car sticker. He demanded the guard's license and frightened the poor man out of his wits. Senator What-His-Name said he was merely thinking of the poor people who could not enter the village to visit their rich relatives because they had no car stickers. Talk of hypocrisy!

The security guard industry has grown immensely since the last *sereno* retired to pursue more active employment. Practically all business establishments, including hole-in-the-wall pawnshops and noodle houses, now employ security guards. This is an indication of the growing apprehensiveness against crime and, equally, the growing rise in criminality. It was different during the relatively quiet days of the '50s and '60s, when security guards were employed only by banks.

Only recently, several small shops *in a mall* were victimized in daring and successful robberies. The culprits escaped with their loot despite the number of security guards and possibly also policemen assigned to protect the place. Either the criminals are getting too audacious or our guards are sleeping on the job.

It's time to take a sharper look at the security guard industry to make its practitioners more responsible. Our policemen are bad enough with all their supposed training and our security guards couldn't be better without similar preparation. If they cannot prevent crime and apprehend criminals, they should at least learn to be polite to harmless citizens passing through their checkpoints.

The incident Ms Fuentes complains of is believable, given the reputation, or notoriety, of security guards in general. They should correct their ugly image of gruff, overbearing pseudo-lawmen when they're only petty tyrants acting like make-believe policemen.

There's that amusing story of President Richard Nixon who, chancing upon a 10-year-old shoeshine boy on the sidewalks of New York, asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. The black boy replied, "I doan wanna be no police." He probably didn't want to be a security guard either.

Unworthy as I am

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

UNWORTHY as I am, I received the gift of priesthood on Oct. 25, 1980. By God's grace, I am still a priest, very grateful to the Lord for giving me a life so meaningful, and for allowing me to serve His people. Looking back, *hindi ako nag*-shift because I did not listen to myself but to the Lord who kept telling me "Hello, Jerry...*maging sino ka man, te, suportahan ta ka!*"

* * *

"Why me, Lord? What have I ever done to deserve even one of the pleasures I've known? Tell me, Lord, what did I ever do that was worth loving and the kindness you've shown?" These lines from a song by Kris Kristofferson capture what I've been singing all my life long. If we look at ourselves, what do we have, what have we done to deserve God's love? We cannot be proud before God. We all have sinned, and we all have been forgiven much. Let us rejoice in God's forgiveness and love.

* * *

It is better to be presumptuous of God's love than to doubt God's love. *Kapal muks?* Yes, *kapal muks* to the Lord we all are! We must believe and keep on believing that God's love is greater than all our sins, and that His forgiveness is broader than our unfaithfulness. If you don't understand and accept this in your life, if you still believe that you are "*pogi*" to the Lord because of your good works, then you have never really understood the magnitude of God's unconditional love. Instead of worrying of God's love, why don't you just rejoice and be grateful like a child?

* * *

The saints remind us that more than the road of righteousness, it is the road of humility that leads us to the heart of God. There never was a proud saint. Most of them were sinners who never gave up and kept on trying. They knew what it was like to be forgiven. Forgiven much, they went on to live a life of gratitude and love. Indeed, there is no sinner without a future. There is no saint without a past. ***May pag-asa pa. Basta,*** **humble** ***ka.***

* * *

Today is Prisoner Awareness Sunday. When was the last time you visited prisoners? Have you ever seen a prison? Remember, Jesus specifically mentioned visiting prisoners as one of the corporal works of mercy that will lead us to salvation. Let us be aware that there are people out there (in there) who need our prayers and love. We also salute people like Fr. Tony Ranada, SVD who are involved in the prison ministry. On a personal note, let us break loose from the prisons which we ourselves have created in life. Are you a prisoner in your own home, in your own life?

* * *

As we remember our departed relatives and friends, let us be grateful for the love they have shared with us, and let us humbly pray for their eternal repose. Let us be reminded that we too will face our Creator someday. What will people remember about us after we are gone? Their message is simple: Life is short. Don't forget your God. Don't waste your life. Love now while you are still alive, while they are still alive.

* * *

My good friend through the years Sonny Sison, councilor of Urdaneta, Pangasinan, has gone ahead to be with his God and His Creator, leaving his family and us who love him with so much grief, but with so many happy memories of a life that was full, beautiful, love full and God full! I am proud of this chosen brother of mine for he remained uncorrupted in public service and dedicated in church service as a lay minister. He and I started the Walk with God to Manaoag in October 1989. Sonny, the truth is, "this world was never meant for one as beautiful as you!" Till we meet again in the Resurrection!

* * *

Last Oct. 23, Manong Oscar and Ate Rose celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in a very simple family gathering, minus the glitters and the jitters. As I began the Mass, a plant decor fell down. To capture the moment, I said, "The decor fell down, but the marriage is intact!" Decorations in life—money, position, power, etc.—come and go. That which is important—love, peace, family, God—must remain intact. As the saying goes, "Worry not about the branches swaying in the wind as long as the trunk is firm."

* * *

We have a long vacation up ahead. Let's take the opportunity to relax, reflect and renew. Take time to rest, and to reach out to your God and to your loved ones. The key to mending any broken relationship is humility. Unless we humble ourselves, we cannot break the walls that divide us. Reach out in humility. Forgive, for you too have been forgiven much.

* * *

Let us end the month of the rosary by joining a two-hour telethon, and a Thanksgiving Mass on Oct. 31, 12:30-2:30 a.m. live over RPN 9, sponsored by Mama Mary's Movement and the XVD Association for Rosary propagation. The rosary is our weapon for world peace. Pray the rosary. Promote the rosary. Love the rosary. Live the rosary.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, thank you for your many blessings in my life, unworthy as I am, sinner that I am. Amen.

Limits of military power

NEWS ANALYSIS

Alistair Lyon

LONDON—Bombs drop, civilians die, frontlines stagnate and Osama bin Laden remains at large.

If this scenario drags on for weeks and months, the United States and its allies risk seeing an erosion of public support for their military assault on Afghanistan's ruling Taliban.

Western analysts say the military drive is progressing much as anticipated: the error lies with anyone who expected conventional warfare to produce quick results against terrorism.

"The military campaign is important but it's a relatively small part of the overall campaign to reduce the risk of terrorism to citizens," Sir Timothy Garden, a military expert at London's Royal Institute of International Affairs, told Reuters.

President George W. Bush has said he wants Bin Laden "dead or alive." Ousting the Taliban became a goal after the Islamist hard-liners refused to surrender the man accused of organizing the Sept. 11 plane attacks in New York and Washington.

American and British leaders have stressed that the struggle against terrorism will be long, but the lack of swift and visible gains against Bin Laden and his Taliban protectors may still disconcert hearts and minds at home and abroad.

"The Americans could lose the propaganda war," said William Hopkinson, a British writer on international security. "The worst thing would be a dribble of civilian casualties and no progress through the winter, only a week or two away."

When the president of the globe's mightiest military power declares war on terrorism and vows to rid the world of evil, he raises expectations that at the very least the United States and its allies would be able to rid Afghanistan of the Taliban.

The bombing began nearly three weeks ago. Early on, the Pentagon boasted it had achieved air superiority over low-tech Taliban forces, knocking out airfields and radar and destroying what was described as their "command and control system."

The tone has become less triumphal.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld suggested last week that Bin Laden may never be caught and the US deputy director of operations, Rear Admiral John Stufflebeam, acknowledged that the Taliban were proving tougher than expected.

The air campaign, apparently more by design than accident, has failed to dislodge the Taliban from frontlines against their outnumbered and outgunned Northern Alliance foes.

Taliban estimates of 1,000 civilian deaths so far may be unverifiable, but the Pentagon has admitted some bombs have gone astray. Footage of wounded children, flattened houses and terrified refugees angers many in the Muslim world and beyond.

To cap a wobbly week for the allies, the Taliban said on Friday they had killed Abdul Haq, an exiled opposition military chief who had crossed back into Afghanistan to try to convince pro-Taliban Pashtun tribes to switch sides.

So have the Americans lost the plot? Only if you have a misplaced belief in what military power can do, analysts argue.

Garden said military action to destroy Bin Laden's training camps in Afghanistan seemed to be "proceeding on the rails," though the benefits in terms of disrupting the flow of recruits to his cause might be tangible only in the long term.

Eliminating al-Qaeda leaders requires "police" action, intelligence and "feet on the ground" to search them out.

"We have just started in Afghanistan. This may take years and there's no guarantee of getting all of them," Garden said, recalling the incomplete search for Balkans war criminals.

The task of removing the Taliban, which the allies say is vital to stopping Afghanistan from being a haven for terrorists, is complicated by uncertainty over who might replace them.

"No one is very enthusiastic about the Northern Alliance rushing in, so there are political constraints," Garden said.

Hopkinson agreed that the prospect of possibly vengeful minority Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazaras sweeping into Kabul risked destabilizing Afghanistan's southern Pashtun heartland and possibly the Taliban's traditional ally, Pakistan. "They may be our guys, but they are not good guys," he said of the Northern Alliance.

Some alliance leaders say they want to capture the northern town of Mazar-i-Sharif, but not Kabul, pending a broad-based Afghan government, which the United Nations hopes to broker.

Hopkinson questioned the wisdom of talking of a "war" on terrorism, except in a metaphorical sense. "The military is not the main instrument here. Waging war on terrorism means police, intelligence, judicial extraction," he said.

Adding small numbers of crack British commandos to the US-led coalition may have no great impact, he said, unless markedly improved intelligence could identify targets for them.

Britain said on Friday it had made 200 shipborne commandos "immediately available" for the Afghan campaign with another 400 to be put on "high readiness" to join them.

"It's not a question of 'take that hilltop', so it's not altogether clear to me what they will do," Hopkinson said.

Garden suggested that the asymmetrical contest between US firepower and ill-equipped Taliban fighters might at least deter other states from harboring the likes of Bin Laden. "This is a demonstration to other places where Bin Laden might go that they will get same treatment," he declared.

Reuters

Marcos vainer than Franco

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

VALLE DE LOS CAIDOS, Spain—The good news is that my brief, unintended life as a stranded traveler is coming to an end with all my three destinations cleared on the radar screen day after tomorrow.

The bad news is that I'm in a place like this, outside of Madrid with the improbable name of Valle de los Caidos, which translates to "Valley of the Fallen," or "Valley of the Dead," depending on how morbid you want the translation to be. It is an awesome, hideous memorial to Generalissimo Francisco Franco, dictator of Spain for 36 years following the Spanish Civil War, topped by a colossal cross that you can spot a mile away. In fact, some of the brochures refer to this place as "Santa Cruz del Valle de los Caidos."

Franco, who conceived of the project and supervised the work of thousands of workers for many years, was clever enough to disguise it as a Monument to the Dead in the Spanish Civil War, which raged between 1936 and 1939. At least half a million died in that war.

As memorials go, one would think there's a prominent statue of Franco somewhere in this incredibly huge memorial, a bust maybe, perhaps a picture. I looked around for this likeness of a latter incarnation of Philip II to no avail. Finally, pushing forward to the altar of this immense basilica, I saw a bronze plaque on the floor marking the tomb of Jose Antonio. In full his name was Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera, founder of the Falangist Party. On the opposite side is an identical plaque and you have to peer closely to see what's written on it: Francisco Franco.

I wandered around the vicinity, which is surrounded by the breathtaking Sierra del Guadarrama, the famous mountain range dividing the provinces of Madrid and Segovia. For centuries, the kings of Spain were drawn to these magical mountains, including Philip II, of course, who was to build an even more awesome memorial to himself called El Escorial. In modern times, Ernest Hemingway popularized the Guadarramas as the romantic setting of his novel, "For Whom the Bell Tolls." When I saw the movie version with Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman in my earlier incarnation, I really thought it was shot in these mountains. But it was actually filmed, Hollywood-style, in Nevada!

The other thought that comes to you, speaking of concrete memorials defacing the natural environment, is Marcos. My misfortune is that this even more ugly and misbegotten memorial, with Marcos' bust hideously jutting out of a mountainside, lies at the boundary of my home province, La Union, and Benguet in the highlands. Had Marcos' adviser come to Valle de los Caidos, he would have gotten some idea of how to be more discreet in memorializing his boss. But he probably went to Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota where the gigantic busts of four American presidents were hewn out of a mountainside. But remember, they were democratic presidents, not dictators.

In any case, Franco's self-immortalization was no match to Marcos' monumental vanity. This is, of course, not to imply that there was no personality cult promoted by Franco. His picture was in every office, and streets were named after him. He gave himself such names as "Minister of God" and "Sword of the Most High." But he did not carve 50 meters of his face on a Guadarrama mountain.

And now, Franco is happily forgotten, except for some fringe elements who march up and down the streets singing Falangist songs. People don't even talk about him anymore. I spent a good deal of the morning reading up on a popular history of Spain, and the particular history of this memorial.

What did Franco have in mind when he built it? His philosophy could be summarized in a few words: for the power and glory of Spain. The whole architecture of this Valhalla reflects that, with the cross alone towering 150 meters high like a monument to God. Thousands of prisoners working practically as slaves dug out the innards of a huge granite mountain to house the basilica. The granite steps measuring 100 meters wide are in two flights, 10 to each symbolizing the Ten Commandments. The Esplanade fronting it measurers over 30,000 square meters. The spaces between the various chapels in the basilica contain eight large murals made of fabric, appropriately named Apocalypse Tapestries. Christ in all His Glory is everywhere and just about every saint is on some location. The whole atmosphere is apocalyptic.

There is no way I can boil down all my notes in this limited space. The thing that strikes you is, how can a man who ruled with an iron fist sending hundreds of thousands to their deaths for nearly 40 years represent God? Also, Franco scarcely understood economics like most dictators, and he went hunting and fishing several times a week while the people suffered.

One of the questions I always ask about Franco is how he lasted so long. One answer, which is nonsense, is that he had a benevolent dictatorship. There is no such thing. Two factors come to mind: greed and corruption. Was Franco as greedy and corrupt as the infamous Filipino conjugal dictatorship, which amassed upwards of $10 billion after only 20 years in power?

This remains an empirical question needing more research. But a historian who has written extensively on Spain, Mark Williams, has this to say on the topic: "Franco was personally honest, but turned a blind eye to those around him. His brother Nicolas, for example, got involved in many shady deals." Franco's regime provided enormous opportunities for graft, corruption, favoritism and influence-peddling. A crony who died in 1962 had amassed so much wealth that he was considered the world's seventh richest man.

Finally, one cannot help noticing the parallel between Franco and Marcos in the way they themselves suffered and died. In September 1975, Franco, who was suffering from several ailments, like Marcos in his final years, had his last hurrah during the trial of several terrorists. Shaking, feeble and disoriented, he gave his final speech still blaming the Freemasons, communists and other "enemies of the state" for Spain's woes.

And as in the case of the dying Marcos, Franco was subjected by his doctors to every desperate measure to keep him alive with life-support systems. Sick and decrepit to the bone, he was history. You'd probably never guess what his last words were. He asked: "Why is it so difficult to die?"

As I rushed back to the train from the mountain, the question lingered in my mind: Why, indeed? Is it karma? Too many sins? What goes around comes around?

Belinda A. Aquino is professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and chairs the International Philippine Studies Committee.

America's latest weapon

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AMERICA is supposedly set to unleash a new, lethal weapon in its "Strike against Terror," as CNN has dubbed the current campaign in Afghanistan. And from what I've read, it does promise to strike fear in the hearts of the Taliban and the forces of Osama bin Laden.

We must wonder, though, about the ethics involved in deploying such a formidable force, even against terrorists and dour woman-hating despots. Once unleashed, there's no telling how much of a threat this new weaponry holds for the rest of the world. Will humanity ever be safe?

Here's a backgrounder on this sinister weapon, the better for you to judge whether the threat is serious enough to justify its deployment. "Take all American women who are within five years of menopause—train us for a few weeks, outfit us with automatic weapons, grenades, gas masks, moisturizer with SPF15, Prozac, hormones, chocolate, and canned tuna—drop us (parachuted, preferably) across the landscape of Afghanistan, and let us do what comes naturally.

"Think about it. Our anger quotient alone, even when doing standard stuff like grocery shopping and paying bills, is formidable enough to make even armed men in turbans tremble.

"We've survived the water diet, the protein diet, the carbohydrate diet and the grapefruit diet in gyms and saunas across America and never lost a pound. We can easily survive months in the hostile terrain of Afghanistan with no food at all!

"We've spent years tracking down our husbands or lovers in bars, hardware stores, or sporting events...finding Bin Laden in some cave will be no problem.

* * *

"UNITING all the warring tribes of Afghanistan in a new government? Oh, please...we've planned the seating arrangements for in-laws and extended families at Thanksgiving dinners for years...we understand tribal warfare.

"Between us, we've divorced enough husbands to know every trick there is for how they hide, launder, or cover up bank accounts and money sources.

"We know how to find that money and we know how to seize it...with or without the government's help!

"Let us go and fight. The Taliban hates women. Imagine their terror as we crawl like ants with hot flashes over their godforsaken terrain.

"I'm going to write my Congresswoman."

The above came through e-mail networks, forwarded from one sister to another. I don't know who the author is, but I assume she's American. I do know, though, that if you're female, it would have made your day!

* * *

YESTERDAY morning found me at the Marikina City Hall to give an inspirational talk before the participants of the first Women's Congress in the city.

Organized by Mayor Marides Fernando, the Congress brought together women from all over Marikina to discuss their varied roles as community leaders, parents and entrepreneurs. The morning, though was devoted to inspirational messages from different women guests, especially the keynote speaker, Lourdes "Bing" dela Llana Pimentel, who with husband Sen. Nene Pimentel and their six children has been a long-time Marikina resident.

Among the speakers was Carina Agarao, president of the Crusade against Violence, who spoke on the role of women in fighting criminality and violence. Ruby Esteban, officer in charge of the Department of Budget and Management NCR office, read a message from Budget Secretary Emy Boncodin, who highlighted the role that women play in the bureaucracy. Salome Montoya, a retired Justice of the Court of Appeals, remarked on how fitting it is that the symbol of justice is a woman, since women as mothers are responsible not only for molding future generations, but also for upholding the values of decent society.

Remmy Rikken, of Abanse! Pinay and the Women in Politics Institute, urged the women participants to focus their concerns and energies on immediate issues that challenge women around the country, especially violence against women and children. "If we're only going to talk about ballroom dancing, then I might as well go home and plant *camote*," she remarked to the audience's amusement.

Women as "housewives," caregivers at home as well as in government and all of society, was the theme of my talk. Since the bureaucracy is largely made up of women, then it may be said that government is indeed in the hands of women. But even as ordinary citizens, women can play a mothering role, fighting for the values that we have always sought to impart to our children.

This was likewise the theme of Ms Pimentel's talk, highlighting the importance of women in and out of the home, as mothers and nurturers of the future.

* * *

WHILE at this, let me say how envious I am that while I live near Marikina, my home unfortunately lies outside its borders.

Some months back, my husband and I drove my brother-in-law Willy Cruz around Marikina, where his family's roots are, and he couldn't stop himself from marveling at the town's transformation. He was particularly enthused about how clean the streets were, and at such low-key but meaningful development projects like the Riverbanks Center. I remarked that all the positive changes we were admiring proved what a difference political will on the part of the local executive made. If Marikina can solve its garbage problems, impose discipline while responding to its people's needs, I don't see why other Metro Manila cities and towns can't do it.

Recently, former Markina Mayor Bayani "BF" Fernando guested on Cito Beltran's TV show and he explained the relationship between his three terms and the programs of his wife, the present mayor. "We said that 'BF built the house, now MCF will make it a home'."

Doubtless, by harnessing the energy, power and creativity of Marikina's women, "Mayor Marides" is well on the way to creating that home, transforming Marikina from not just a "city that works," to a city that also cares for its people, but especially the most vulnerable and in need of help.

The life and death of coup rumors

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

RUMORS of impending coups and major crimes usually go together in our country. They surface when the euphoria that greeted the entry of a new government begins to dissipate.

This period is full of danger. Where they have not been totally stripped of power, remnants of the old regime will threaten trouble from their followers and use this threat to negotiate favorable terms for peaceful co-existence within the new order. Allies of the new administration will demand that they be consulted on every vital appointment and every aspect of government policy, and warn about withdrawing mandate when decisions don't go their way. Criminals and racketeers of various stripes exploit this moment of adjustment by working within the cracks of an authority system that is not yet fully in place.

Five coup attempts and the chaos in the brittle coalition that brought Cory Aquino to the presidency kept the government unfocused for most of her term. The chronic problems of our society, which worsened under Marcos, took a back seat as the first Edsa government used all its energies fighting to survive. The government did survive, but the recurrent threats of a coup or of another people power explosion became a permanent fixture of our political life. Today, Filipinos talk about coups and people power so loosely one would think these are things you could just grab and hurl at anyone.

Coup d'état, for example, means a strike or a sudden blow against the state. Successful coups in history were carried out with stealth and speed. Serious coup plotters do not broadcast their plans. That is why we can be sure that those who spread rumors of an impending coup have no intention of seizing power. But it is likely that they are laying the premise for negotiated favors or enhanced prerogatives from the political leadership. Of course, coup talk may also be the government's way of preempting the recruitment for a serious coup.

Whatever it is, it is clear that we are not talking of the objective reality of a coup so much as the thinly veiled threat of a coup. But perhaps the best way to dispel these threats is by examining the conditions that make them possible. Do the conditions favoring a coup presently exist? Who stands to benefit from coup rumors?

Coups are launched by people already enjoying some measure of authority within the state. They may be a section of the armed forces or a combination of civilians and military officers. A coup usually projects itself as a temporary and extraordinary arrangement aimed at addressing a situation threatening the survival of the state itself. There has not been a successful coup in the Philippines. The closest we've had to a successful coup would be the declaration of martial law in 1972. Some analysts think of that event as an incumbent president's coup against his own government.

Coups tend to be preceded by a period of delegitimation, disorder and confusion. People lose their faith in their leaders and/or in the system of government itself. Incumbent leaders are portrayed as incompetent, irresponsible, weak, corrupt, or oppressive. In theory, coups do not require public support in order to be successful. But for a coup to succeed, the public's attitude toward the incumbent leadership must be such that no group in the military or in civil society would be inclined and prepared to actively defend the existing government.

Can we say that Filipinos have reached this point of disillusionment with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo? While her administration has been buffeted by serious allegations of corruption, abuse of power and incompetence in some key departments and agencies, none of these refer directly to the President's person. In contrast, almost all her detractors in the opposition have a hard time ridding themselves of the stench of previous associations.

In a time of grave crisis in the global community, we look to a leader we can be proud of, who can speak intelligently and confidently about the problems besetting nations like ours and the world as a whole. Would we rather we had an Erap or a Ping Lacson speaking for us in these times? We may not always agree with her pronouncements on vital issues, and some may be put off by the way she says them, but it would be very difficult for anyone to say that Ms Macapagal has not been a hard-working, disciplined and responsible President.

Political adventurers who spread rumors about unseating the President by a coup or by people power are therefore either hallucinating or they are coupling coup threats with sinister interests.

Is it possible that these rumors are coming from the Palace itself as a means to divert public attention from the investigation of the President's husband? Considering the injury that these rumors inflict on the economy, I find this view absurd.

What I find plausible, however, is the explanation that some groups within the military are seeking to recover or enhance their influence in the government by fanning coup rumors. They have seen how in the past the President would resort to hasty appeasement when she was told that some officers in the military were feeling left out. It is plain opportunism.

Rumors like these can have multiple beneficiaries, none of whom may be the principal author. They assume a life of their own, coupling with a medley of needs, until they die. Sometimes from out of the blue, on a slow evening when nothing much is happening, some enterprising media person, quoting an unnamed source, decides to give these rumors a second breath of life. And so begins another cycle.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

THEY SAID

Rush to dismiss

"We have cured this defect but as you can see now, the prosecutor's office will never run out of excuses when their minds are already set to dismiss any given case."

—Puerto Princesa National Bureau of Investigation chief Artemio Sacaguing, ruing the dismissal of a muro-ami case

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

US MILITARY "ADVISERS" IN THE PHILIPPINES

A cause for alarm?

THE PRESENCE of US soldiers in the Philippines has always been a contentious, even divisive, issue. The arrival this month of American military officers—variously described by different government officials as advisers or experts or coordinators or partners—has been no different. There are arguments for and against, not necessarily influenced by the tragic events of Sept. 11.

The INQUIRER invited four political personalities identified with the issue of US presence in the country to shed light on the matter. Vice President Teofisto Guingona and former Senate President Jovito Salonga were among the 12 senators who rejected the US bases treaty in 1991. Senators Blas Ople and Rodolfo Biazon quarterbacked the passage of the Visiting Forces Agreement in 1999, a treaty opposed by five senators—among them Guingona, who filed suit at the Supreme Court.

Maybe not, but official statements have muddled the issue

BY SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on National Defense and Security

US MILITARY advisers have been staying in the Philippines since March 21, 1947, when the governments of the Philippines and the United States signed the Military Assistance Agreement.

In this treaty, the United States agreed to provide military assistance to the Philippines in the training and development of its armed forces. Development included equipment and technical supplies for training operations and maintenance.

Conformably, a US military advisory group provided such advice and assistance to the Philippines, as have been authorized by the US Congress.

The existence of the Joint US Military Advisory Group (or JUSMAG) in the Philippines has never ceased—not even when the Senate decided not to ratify the new bases agreement in 1991. This was because the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program continued to be extended to the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Furthermore, there were still residual funds left after the extension of grant aid in equipment temporarily stopped in 1993.

Last year, a grant aid of $1.9 million for the repair and maintenance of equipment was given to the Philippines, in addition to the $1.9 million for IMET. For this year, the US is extending about $20 million in grant aid for both the maintenance of equipment and the training of military personnel.

The arrival of a 22-man US assessment team led by a US colonel to help the AFP review its current campaign against the Abu Sayyaf Group, identifying areas for improvement in operational planning and execution as well as identifying needed equipment which the United States may be able to provide, is within the context of the Military Assistance Agreement.

Meetings and briefings with AFP staff at General Headquarters, in the Southern Command, and with the units operating against the ASG in Basilan mainly characterize the visit. It will be completed in a month, after which the team shall share their assessment with the AFP.

What complicates this supposedly normal and ordinary visit are the different definitions issued by the Defense establishment. The National Security Adviser, Sec. Roilo Golez, referred to the team as "advisers." Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes called them "partners." These are vague and questionable descriptions that tend to imply that the team is actually involved in operations.

The Administration should clearly inform the Filipino people about the true nature and purpose of the US military team to prevent speculation that could trigger mass actions because of conflicting statements being issued by various government officials.

The only justifiable role for these Americans should be the evaluation of the state of equipment and material of the AFP with the possibility of reactivating the 1947 Mutual Assistance Agreement. The team should only be involved in providing technical advice relative to the use of these pieces of equipment.

No. They will help fight terrorism

BY VICE PRESIDENT TEOFISTO GUINGONA
Concurrently, Secretary of Foreign Affairs

THE foreign advisers who have arrived, come to advise. Not to fight in the battlefields, not to conduct operations, not to engage the adversary. Only to help through solid advice. They possess the necessary know-how, the required experience and the scientific savvy on how to resolutely rescue hostages and stifle the enemy.

When a farmer's crops are partly ravaged by perilous pests, that farmer will welcome advice. From men who can tell him how best to contain the damage, what tools to use, when and in what manner to rid the farm of further destruction.

We are faced with a similar challenge. The Abu Sayyafs have caused terror in Basilan. They have killed innocent victims to sow fear into the hearts and minds of the citizenry. They snatch people for ransom and cut off heads if demands are not met. They are not only bandits for ransom. They are also terrorists.

The nation should move to blot out this stain upon the land. And the nationality of those who can help with needed advice is not the issue.

We need to save the lives of the remaining hostages. In the national interest, we have a right to catch the terrorists and make them accountable. We have made a stand against terrorism pursuant to the United Nations Security Council Resolution as approved by our own National Security Council—and we are determined to stifle this scourge of terror against the land.

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ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

No. But it could prove embarrassing

BY SEN. BLAS OPLE

THERE is no ground or cause for alarm, except in the paranoid imagination of some of our misguided countrymen. The Philippine government has made it crystal clear that the so-called "military advisers" are here to dialogue with their Filipino counterparts concerning the global response to the crisis of international terrorism and to share information and knowledge on how to deal with this menace. Whether called advisers, coordinators or observers, the presence of this group from the United States may be construed as a form of military assistance consistent with the provisions of the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951. There is no way US troops will join the melee in Mindanao. The advisory group will be here for about two weeks and then leave.

This also falls squarely within the framework of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1393, promulgated on Sept. 28, which reaffirms the inherent right of individual and collective self-defense as reiterated in Resolution 1368, and reaffirms further "the need to combat by all means in accordance with the charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts."

Indeed, the presence of American military advisers in the Philippines is nothing new. Before the pullout of the US bases, there existed the JUSMAG (Joint US Military Advisory Group) as an integral part of the US Embassy in Manila. The public still remembers that day in April 1989 when the Chief of JUSMAG, Col. James Rowe, who endured 62 months of captivity as a Vietcong prisoner of war and was hailed as a hero in the United States, was assassinated while driving to work in the suburbs of Manila. Findings of the police investigation showed that Colonel Rowe was murdered by elements of the New People's Army, who gloated that the US officer was fair game since he was involved in counter-insurgency work, as though a state of war existed between the Philippines and the United States. The police identified two of the gunmen, Juanito Itaas and Donato Continente, who were subsequently charged and convicted in court. Whenever the release of political prisoners was taken up, the National Democratic Front invariably and strongly demanded the release of the two convicted assassins of Colonel Rowe. The Philippine government, taking the formal opposition of the US government into account, has consistently rejected this demand.

It may appear that the US government has ceased to be vocal about this mutual embarrassment over the assassination of an officer enjoying diplomatic status in the Philippines. The US advisers are here for another purpose: determine how they can help the Philippine government deal the with the problem of the Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Mindanao through the provision of technical assistance or military equipment to facilitate a military solution to the terrorism perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf, which has been determined to be a part of the Al Qaeda international terrorist network headed by Saudi renegade Osama Bin Laden, the accused mastermind of the bombing attacks against the United States.

The Catholic-backed Task Force Detainees recommended the release of Itaas and Continente. This was reiterated before the new Macapagal administration, but it was also set aside.

NPA terrorists?

The continuing rhubarb over the assassination of Colonel Rowe on a Quezon City street on April 21, 1989 in turn gives rise to the question: Should the NPAs be listed as an international terrorist organization? It will be recalled that the NPA has also owned responsibility for the killing of three prominent political leaders in more recent days: Representatives Rodolfo Aguinaldo of Cagayan and Marcial Punzalan, Jr. of Quezon and Mayor Cesar Platon of Tanauan, Batangas, besides scores of lesser known officials and policemen throughout the country.

Immediately thereafter a government spokesman announced the decision of the President to terminate the peace talks with the National Democratic Front, the NPA's political arm, based in Utrecht, the Netherlands, until the NDF renounces the assassination of civilians as a party policy.

But merely raising the question tends to embarrass President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, in the light of claims that the NDF and the NPA, through their surrogates in civil society, have helped install her in the Presidency through EDSA II on January 20, 2001. They are owed a political debt of gratitude.

On the other hand, it will not be easy to convince the public that the NPA is not a terrorist organization. They have spread more terror in the land than all the Muslim terrorist organizations combined.

Yes, the presence of the US military advisers in connection with the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist guerrillas does not encroach on Philippine sovereignty. It is consistent with our Mutual Defense Treaty and our obligations under the UN Security Council Resolutions. But if the Americans raise due concern over the assassination of American diplomatic personnel on Philippine soil, such as Col. James Rowe, the presence of the US advisers may indeed result in a major embarrassment to the President and her Leftist allies.

Anonymous advisers: The root of the problem

BY JOVITO SALONGA
Former Senate President
President, Kilosbayan

AMERICAN military advisers, numbering 26, including two colonels, reportedly arrived from Kadena Airbase in Japan on Oct. 19, 2001—"under cover of darkness," as one daily described it. They immediately boarded a bus and rode off to an unknown destination. Since then, the accounts of our public officials as to why they came and what they are doing here have been confusing and conflicting.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said "that the group was sent to share information and to help fight international terrorism, not simply to go after the Abu Sayyaf." But in a subsequent press briefing, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes revealed that their arrival was "the result of a dialogue between Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedes Villanueva and Admiral Dennis Blair, the commander-in-chief of the Pacific Command." The US team will "dialogue with its counterparts in the military and with local governments… they are here to give us equipment, they are here to dialogue." Reyes described them as "our dialogue partners in our fight against terrorism." Armed Forces spokesperson Gen. Edilberto Adan, however, had a different view. He said that the members of the US visiting team were "specialists" in various disciplines, who are here "to assess the capabilities of Filipino soldiers in the fight against terrorism." Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said preparations had been made for the arrival of 22 "experts" who will be "helping the government map out strategies against the Abu Sayyaf." He revealed that the US team will "visit Basilan for only half a day for security reasons." They will "not be staying overnight because we might be inviting disaster," Cimatu said. The experts, whom he described later as "coordinators," would be helpless "if they stayed overnight in Basilan"—perhaps due to the fear that they might be captured by the Abu Sayyaf. That would be a horrible disaster; it would surely rate banner headlines throughout the world.

Whether they are "advisers," "partners," "specialists," "experts," or "coordinators," the Senate is in the dark as to the source of their authority and the extent of their functions here. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon was right in asking Malacañang to identify the US military personnel and clarify the nature and purpose of their activities here.

If, indeed, these American arrivals are operating here as "coordinators," their appointment should come from Malacanang or, at least, cleared with the Office of the President, so that our people will have an idea of what it is they are supposed to coordinate, for how long, and where.

We in the Philippines have had some experience with "advisers," who turned out to be more than that. To cite one example, President Elpidio Quirino was pressed in 1949 to accept Col. Ed Lansdale as an "adviser" without being informed about his true mission. We know the rest of the story—Lansdale played an extraordinary role in shaping political developments here to suit the designs of the policymakers in Washington. We should never forget that in the early 1960s, the United States began with a few military and civilian "advisers" in South Vietnam.

Perhaps the root of our problem with these anonymous US advisers may be found in the words of the President herself. Shortly after the Sept.11 attacks in the United States, President Macapagal pledged "all-out aid to the US," which may include "deploying Filipino combat troops." Admiral Thomas Fargo, who had visited Manila earlier and conferred with Filipino officials, went so far as to outline "military plans for using Subic and Clark Field in the global war against terrorism," as revealed by Golez.

The "all-out aid" statement of the President has probably led Washington officials to believe that we in the Philippines have gone back to our former status as a dependency of the United States, despite the Sept. 16, 1991 rejection by the Senate of the US-RP bases treaty. The Apec Summit in Shanghai should be a learning experience for both GMA and George W. Bush. The Shanghai Communique condemned the Sept. 11 hijack attacks but stopped short of backing US-led strikes on Afghanistan or naming Washington's prime suspect: Osama bin Laden.

We urge the President to consider very carefully the far-reaching consequences of her "all-out aid" formula. One result, for example, could be the vulnerability of our diplomatic officials and many Filipino residents in Islamic countries where the Philippines may be viewed as a satellite of the United States. The Aug. 1, 2000 attempted assassination of Philippine Ambassador Leonides Caday in Jakarta at the height of President Estrada's all-out war against Muslims in Mindanao has been blamed on Muslim extremists in Indonesia. We hope and pray that this unfortunate incident will not be repeated in various Islamic countries in Asia and the Middle East where we have diplomatic establishments. Next time, the victims might include Filipino professionals, technicians and overseas workers.

Talking points

FIRST off, a word about different kinds of protocol. By all rights, Vice President Guingona's short, punchy comment should have led off the discussion. But the elements of design—in themselves constituting a form of etiquette—dictated today's asymmetrical layout.

And now, a consideration of the different names used by various high officials to designate the visiting US military officers. The fact alone that there are different titles already tells us this much: the officials are not speaking in concert. In the language of spinmeisters, they are not reading from the same script.

Senators Salonga, Biazon and Ople use this difference in names in different ways. To apply a simplified, schematic structure: Salonga uses it as the primary premise, devoting three paragraphs to building the foundation for the rest of his argument. (Unfortunately, about a third of his article was cut, for lack of space.) "Whether they are 'advisers,' 'partners,' 'specialists,' 'experts,' or 'coordinators,' the Senate is in the dark…," he writes. Biazon uses it as a secondary premise, allowing him to contrast a non-controversial application of existing treaties with the controversial name-giving. "These are vague and questionable descriptions that tend to imply that the team is actually involved in operations," he writes, reasonably enough (although note the double-tentative nature of this conclusion). Ople, however, merely notes the difference, but does not make too much of it. "Whether called advisers, coordinators or observers, the presence of this group…may be construed as a form of military assistance consistent with the provisions of the Mutual Defense Treaty," he writes, and then leaves it at that. (He has, so to speak, other fish to fry, of the Dutch-bred variety.)

In a way, this blithe passing over of the name game is reflected in the Vice President's article. He does not even mention the possibility of a complication arising from the use of many synonyms for "adviser." Indeed, his tactical aim in the article is not to evade but to embrace the controversial word itself. "The foreign advisers who have arrived, come to advise," he writes, basing his entire argument—homey illustration, application of illustration to "a similar challenge," ringing conclusion—on the single, powerful idea.—*J. Nery*

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Anthrax hits US Supreme Court, CIA

WASHINGTON—The anthrax scare gripping the United States widened further on Friday when traces of the germ warfare agent were detected at a mail inspection center serving the US Supreme Court, in the offices of three members of the House of Representatives and at a CIA facility.

In other developments, authorities held out the possibility that there was at least one more anthrax-tainted letter somewhere in Washington and weighed giving anthrax vaccines to decontamination personnel and others. Postal officials said they would keep open a large mail-processing plant in New York where anthrax traces were found.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said investigators had determined that the pure, concentrated and highly dangerous anthrax delivered in a letter last week to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle "could be produced by a PhD microbiologist and a sophisticated laboratory."

"That does not rule out that it could be state-sponsored," Fleischer said at a briefing. "That does not rule out that it could come from a foreign location. But it certainly does expand it beyond state sponsorship or foreign locations."

There could be as many as 40 places in the United States with the ability to produce the lethal version of anthrax that was mailed to Daschle, said Sen. Bob Graham, Senate intelligence committee chair.

"Most of them are associated with a university, a medical center or a veterinary center," Graham, a Florida Democrat, told Reuters. "But I don't believe any source of this has either been ruled in or ruled out, sources within the United States or elsewhere."

The discovery of a trace of anthrax at a Supreme Court facility located miles away from the court's building on Capitol Hill meant that all three branches of the US government had been affected by the anthrax mail menace, which has claimed three lives.

Supreme Court spokesperson Kathy Arberg said an air filter at its off-site mail inspection warehouse had tested positive for anthrax spores. Mail is taken from the Supreme Court to the facility for screening and then back to the Supreme Court.

"We have no evidence of any contamination in the Supreme Court building," Arberg said. Authorities said testing on the Supreme Court's 400 employees was being carried out and employees were being given antibiotics as a precaution.

The famed, columned Supreme Court building was closed for another round of environmental testing and for decontamination if necessary.

If the building remains closed on Monday, the court will sit elsewhere to hear scheduled oral arguments, officials said. That would be the first time since the Supreme Court building was erected in 1935 that the justices would sit to hear arguments in another location.

Lt. Dan Nichols of the US Capitol Police said small amounts of anthrax were detected in the sixth and seventh floors of the Longworth House Office Building—across the street from the Capitol building, in the offices of Democratic Representatives John Baldacci of Maine and Rush Holt of New Jersey and Republican Rep. Mike Pence of Indiana. *Reuters*

US extremists, not Bin Laden, suspects in anthrax attacks

WASHINGTON—The FBI and CIA believe extremists in the United States, not followers of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden, are probably behind this month's anthrax attacks, the Washington Post reported on Saturday.

Senior officials also are increasingly concerned the germ warfare agent attacks have diverted public attention from the larger threat posed by Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, the paper said. They believe the main suspect in the hijacked plane strikes on America on Sept. 11 is planning a second wave of attacks against US interests at home or abroad that could come at any time, the Post added.

The FBI and the US Postal Inspection Service are considering a wide range of domestic possibilities, including associates of right-wing hate groups and US residents sympathetic to causes of Islamic extremists, in the letter-borne germ attacks.

"Everything seems to lean toward a domestic source," a senior government official told the newspaper. "Nothing seems to fit with an overseas terrorist type operation."

In a spate of cases involving letters laced with the anthrax spores, three people have died, at least 11 others have been infected and thousands more have been tested or given medicine for the rare disease. The attacks have spooked Americans, already on edge after the plane attacks that killed some 5,000 people shattered the nation's sense of security.

The Post reported investigators have no clear suspects and are not even certain whether there are other undetected letters that contain the potentially deadly microbe.

So far, federal authorities have identified only one letter in the Washington area that contained anthrax—sent to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat.

But the detection of anthrax at an increasing number of government mail facilities and congressional offices has raised the possibility that one or more additional anthrax letters may have come through the Washington area.

The Bush administration has said it does not rule out a link between the anthrax and Bin Laden, although it has found no hard evidence.

The Post said the anti-Israel message in anthrax letters sent to Daschle and NBC News, and in Bin Laden's statements are echoed by US extremists groups, such as Aryan Action, which praises the Sept. 11 plane attacks.

FBI Director Robert Mueller warned earlier this week additional terror attacks are a "distinct possibility."

But government officials do not believe the anthrax scare is a second wave of attacks by Bin Laden, the paper said. *Reuters*

Pakistanis stage giant anti-US rally

KARACHI—At least 50,000 militants massed in Pakistan's biggest city on Friday, burning the US flag and effigies of President George W. Bush in the biggest anti-US protest since air strikes on Afghanistan began.

About 5,000 police were on the streets to prevent trouble as the giant rally heard speeches by leaders of radical Muslim parties condemning the US and Pakistan governments.

Demonstrations were also held in several other major cities, including the capital Islamabad where protesters burned effigies of Bush and Pakistan's leader Pervez Musharraf.

But the Karachi gathering—estimated at 50,000 people by Karachi police chief Tariq Jamil—was by far the biggest in Pakistan since air strikes started on Oct. 7 against Taliban targets to force them to hand over Osama bin Laden.

Demonstrators carried portraits of Bin Laden, a Saudi dissident, and shouted slogans against the United States and Musharraf, who has thrown Pakistan's weight behind the US campaign to track down the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in New York and Washington.

Effigies of the Pakistani president were set alight alongside those of Bush.

Despite regular demonstrations against the US bombing onslaught, Musharraf's handling of the crisis has generally been backed by most Pakistanis.

But Samiul Haq, head of the Afghanistan Defense Council, a coalition of radical pro-Taliban groups, said Musharraf was "a traitor of Muslim nations. He should resign and leave the country."

Haq added: "The Taliban are a symbol of Islam. This will be a long war against the infidel forces. They want to eliminate Muslims."

Other speakers called on the Pakistan army to overthrow Musharraf, a general who himself seized power two years ago.

In Lahore, police baton-charged demonstrators blocking a city-center road. *AFP*

Israel to withdraw from Bethlehem after accord with Palestinians

TEL AVIV—Israel and the Palestinians reached an agreement on an Israeli army withdrawal from the West Bank town of Bethlehem during a joint security meeting Friday, the first contact between the two sides since the Oct. 17 assassination of an Israeli cabinet minister.

The agreement was reached after a four-hour meeting held near Tel Aviv under the aegis of the United States by the Israeli-Palestinian security committee, which is due to meet again on Sunday.

The meeting was convened only hours after three armed Palestinians of the radical Hamas movement were killed by Israeli troops as they tried to sneak into a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip.

"We have agreed that Israel will withdraw its forces from the Bethlehem-Beit Jala area on Saturday and that the committee will meet again Sunday to decide on Israeli withdrawals from other reoccupied areas," a high-ranking Palestinian security official said on condition of anonymity.

Ceasefire

An Israeli defense ministry spokesperson said the deal was reached after the Palestinians agreed to implement a ceasefire in the area after the withdrawal.

A meeting between senior Israeli and Palestinian security officers to discuss the terms of the withdrawal on the ground has been scheduled for Saturday morning, the spokesperson said.

Some 50 Palestinians, including around 20 in the Bethlehem area, have been killed by Israeli forces since the violent reoccupation of six autonomous West Bank cities which followed the assassination of Israeli tourism minister Rehavam Zeevi.

Earlier, the Israeli security cabinet approved under intense international pressure a phased withdrawal—a move hailed by US Secretary of State Colin Powell—but said it would only proceed if the Palestinians meet Israeli security demands.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's spokesperson Raanan Gissin said Friday Israel still wanted the handover of militants suspected in Zeevi's killing and a crackdown by the Palestinian Authority on hard-line groups.

But Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said the Israelis extradition of Zeevi's killers was against existing legal agreements between the two sides.

Assassination

The Palestinian Authority responded to Zeevi's assassination by making some arrests and outlawing the armed wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—which claimed Zeevi's assassination—but refuses to give up anyone to the Israelis.

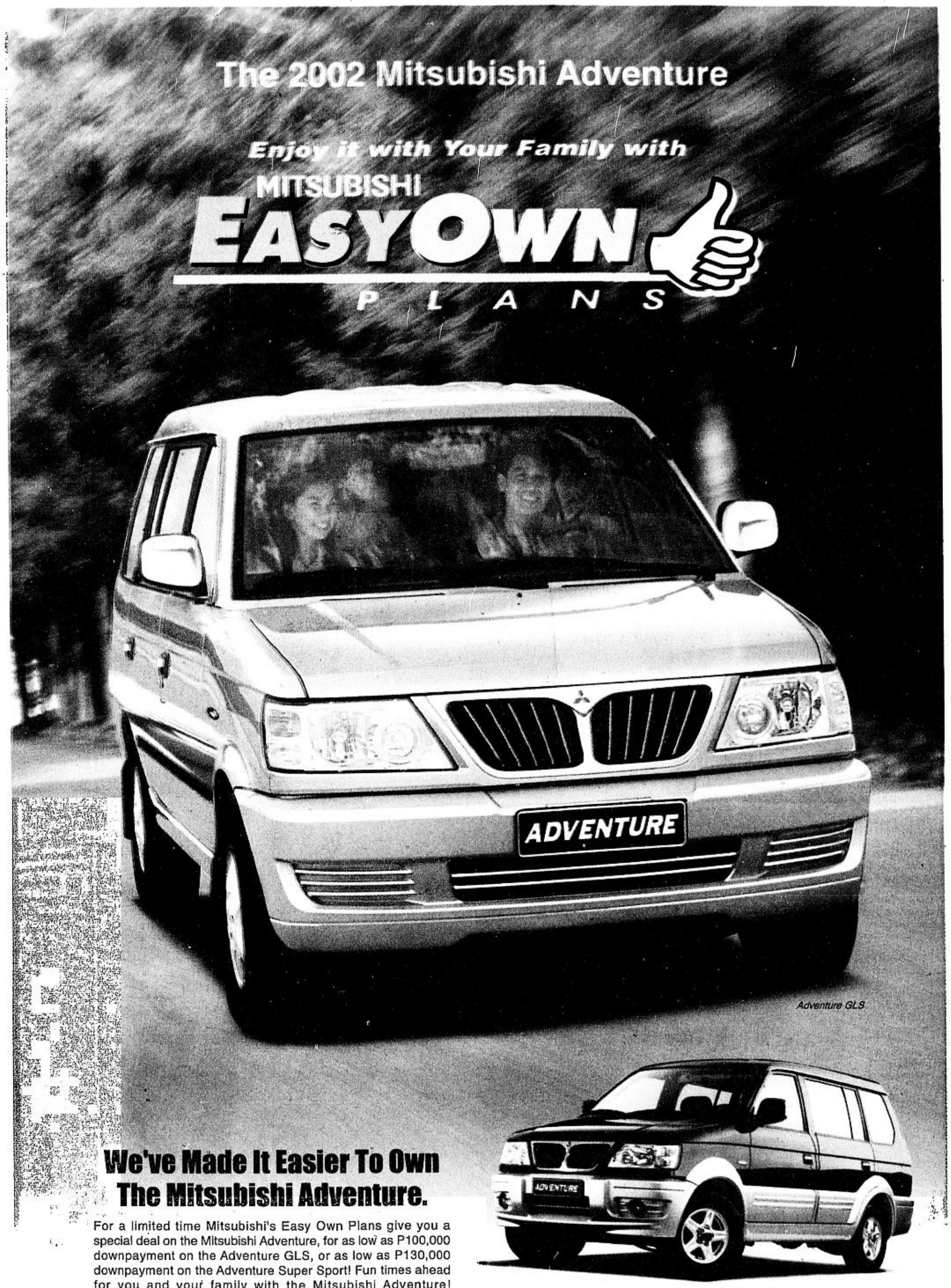
But the armed wings of five Palestinian militant groups, including Arafat's Fatah, said in a statement Friday they intended to continue the struggle against Israel.

Israel for its part has said it has arrested some of those concerned, notably in a bloody incursion this week into the West Bank village of Beit Rima, but it still wants PFLP chief Ahmad Sadat.

The UN Security Council, including Israel's main ally the United States, called Thursday for an immediate pullout, though it stopped short of making the demand legally binding.

The Security Council also said it strongly endorsed a four-point statement issued by its Middle East representative Terje Roed-Larsen and envoys from the United States, the European Union and Russia.

Apart from a withdrawal, they called on Israel to "halt extra-judicial killings, ensure greater restraint by the IDF (army), and fully respect the ceasefire" agreed last month with the Palestinians. *AFP*



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GLS Gas M/T	710,000	**100,000**	28,444	20,423
Gas A/T	745,000	**100,000**	29,856	21,437
GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	**100,000**	29,049	20,858
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	134,000	31,066	22,306
Super Sport Gas M/T	755,000	130,000	30,259	21,727
Gas A/T	795,000	138,000	31,873	22,886

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GLX Gas M/T	650,000	322,500	11,104	8,107
Diesel M/T	675,000	335,000	11,534	8,421
GLS Gas M/T	710,000	352,500	12,137	8,861
Gas A/T	745,000	370,000	12,739	9,301
GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	360,000	12,395	9,049
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	385,000	13,256	9,678
Super Sport Gas M/T	755,000	375,000	12,911	9,426
Gas A/T	795,000	395,000	13,600	9,929

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Odyssey sets dip into Mars' atmosphere

PASADENA, California—NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft headed for its first brush with the Martian atmosphere early Saturday, a surf along the upper fringe of the atmosphere less than 160 km above the planet's surface.

The goal of the maneuver was to tighten the spacecraft's orbit around the Red Planet.

By January, after several more dips into the atmosphere—a maneuver known as aerobraking—scientists hope to have the Odyssey down to a tight, 2 1/2-hour orbit. Then the spacecraft can get to work.

The Odyssey was sent up to map the distribution of minerals and chemicals across Mars' surface and provide daily Martian weather reports. It also will be seeking out frozen deposits of water and hot springs that might exist on the planet. If water ever existed there, that could mean life existed on Mars, too.

Two 1999 missions with similar studies both failed: the Climate Orbiter flew to close to the planet because of a mix-up between English and metric units, and the Polar Lander likely plunged to the surface because of a software error.

Engineers and scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, headquarters of the $297-million mission, are closely monitoring the aerobraking adjustments with the Odyssey.

"The spacecraft is very healthy and everything looks just right," mission manager David Spencer said Friday.

The "drag passes" use friction with the atmosphere to shave minutes off the egg-shaped 18 1/2-hour orbit Odyssey entered when it reached Mars on Tuesday. The final orbit is expected to be circular and 402 km high when the aerobraking is complete in January.

The initial pass was designed to have a relatively small effect. Saturday night, the craft is scheduled to dip deeper into the atmosphere, to an altitude of 135 km.

The body of the boxy spacecraft is designed to handle the stresses of aerobraking, but friction with the atmosphere could overheat the winglike 6.75-square-meter solar array that powers Odyssey, Spencer said.

"We've had a lot of lengthy discussions about what would actually happen if we went too far in terms of heating up the solar array, and it's really doubtful it would be a catastrophic failure," he said.

"There may be some delamination (peeling) of the array which could cause a decrease in performance, but we're being cautious and we don't even want to approach that point." *AP*

UK archbishop resigns following sex scandal

LONDON—One of Britain's top bishops stepped down Friday after a meeting with Pope John Paul II following allegations that he failed to act in two cases of pedophile priests.

Archbishop John Aloysius Ward, the most senior Catholic bishop in Wales, said in a statement that he was determined not to be forced out of office but was concerned that his ill health might return.

"Consequently I offered my resignation to Pope John Paul II and I immediately felt at peace," Ward said in his statement.

The 72-year-old Archbishop of Cardiff was ordered into retirement by the Pope according to Britain's daily Guardian newspaper.

The controversial archbishop, who had come under increasing pressure to step down, had a private audience with the Pope last week at the end of which he said he had decided to resign.

"I was determined that no one—be it sections of the media or other critics—would force me out of office," Ward said.

Ward has insisted he did nothing wrong following accusations that he failed to protect children by employing Father Joe Jordan and Father John Lloyd despite warnings about the priests.

He ordained Jordan in 1998, in the knowledge that he had already been tried and acquitted of indecently assaulting a young boy.

Jordan, who used football as a way of meeting boys, then went on to indecently assault two nine-year-olds while he was a priest.

Last year, he was sentenced to eight years in jail for those offences and for indecently assaulting a 12-year-old boy in the 1980s. Police also found hundreds of pornographic images of children on his computer.

Lloyd, one of the archbishop's close colleagues, was also jailed for eight years in 1998 for pedophile offences.

Ward is to be replaced by Bishop Peter Smith, 58, who is currently bishop of East Anglia. *AFP*

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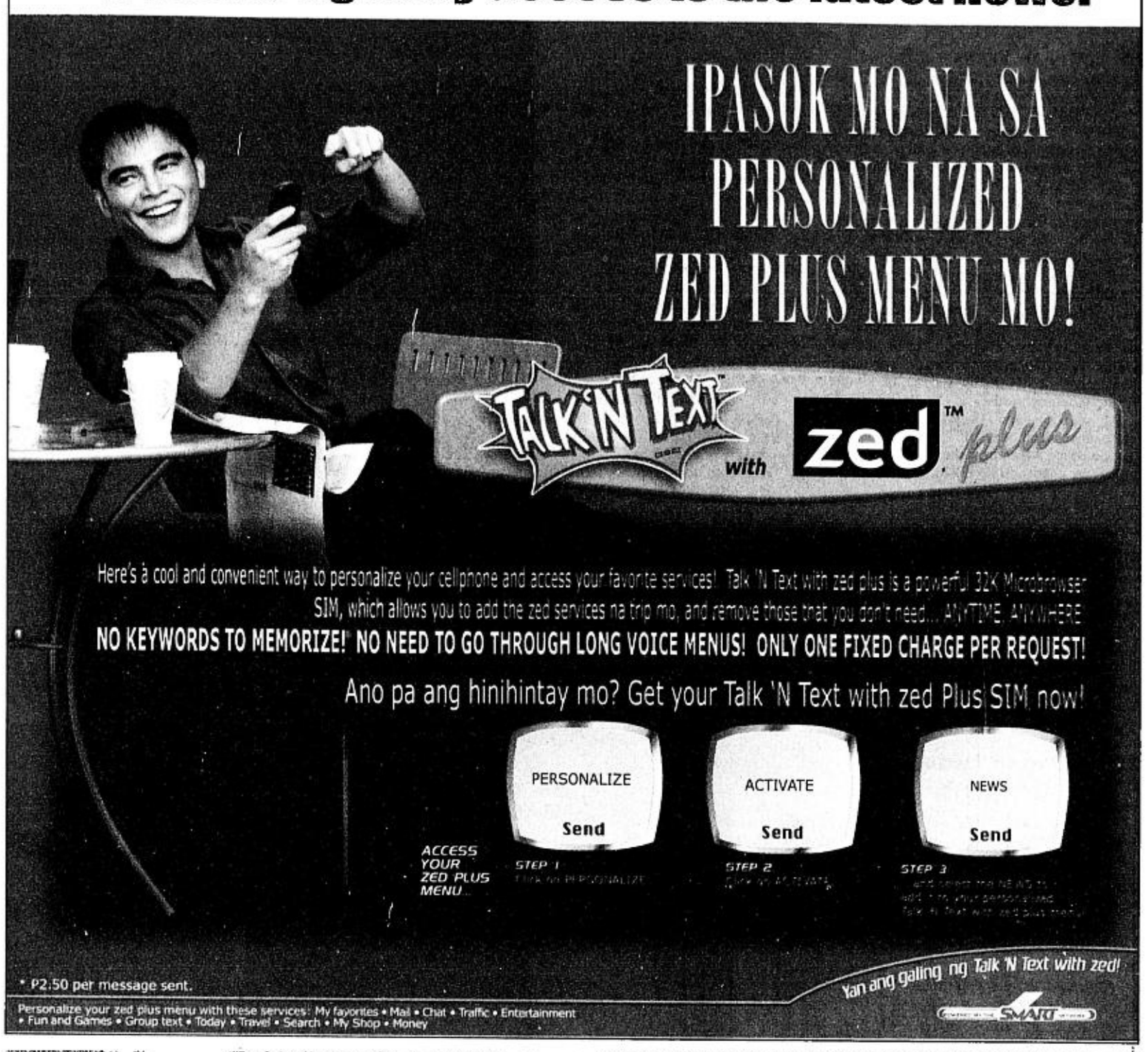
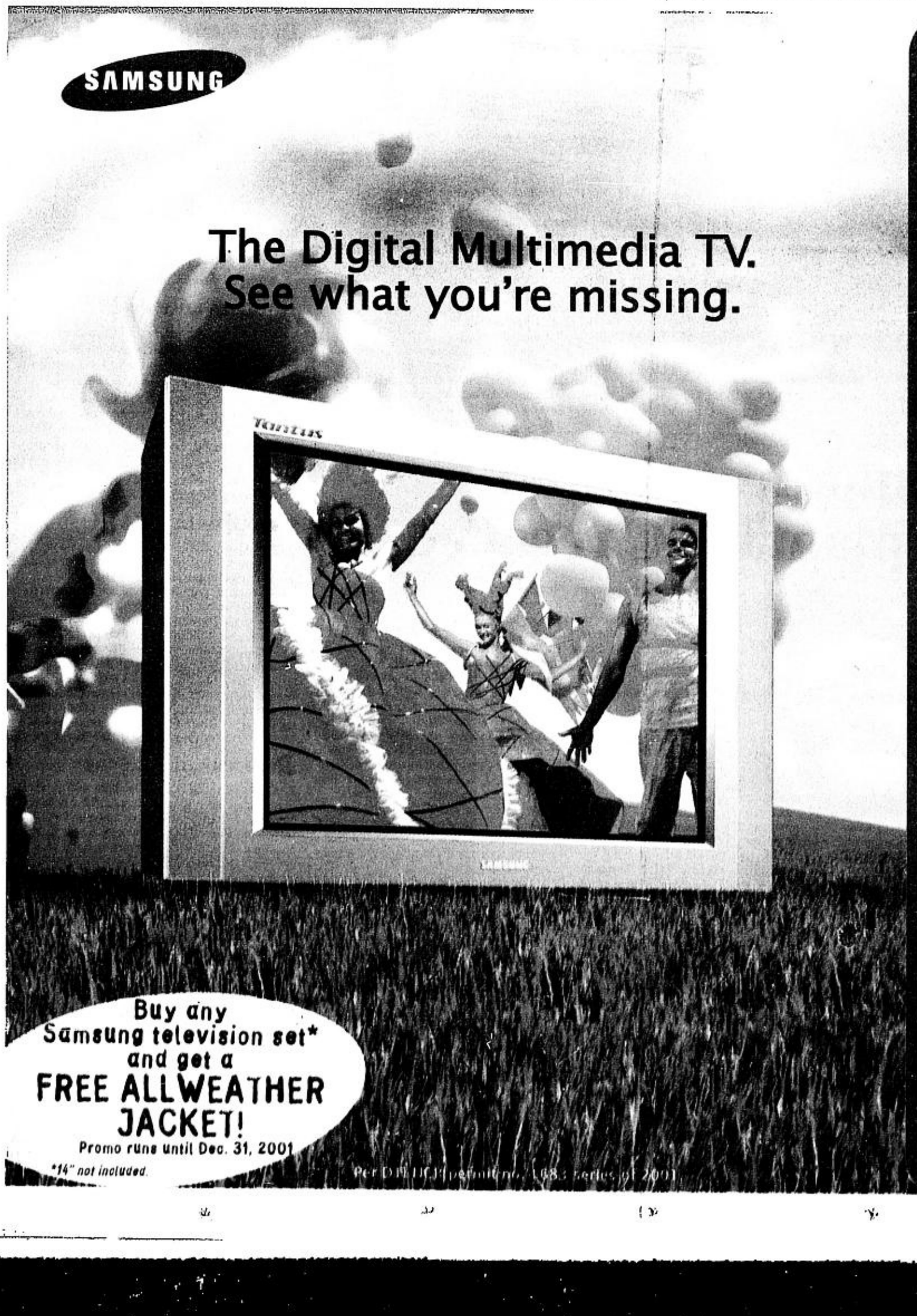
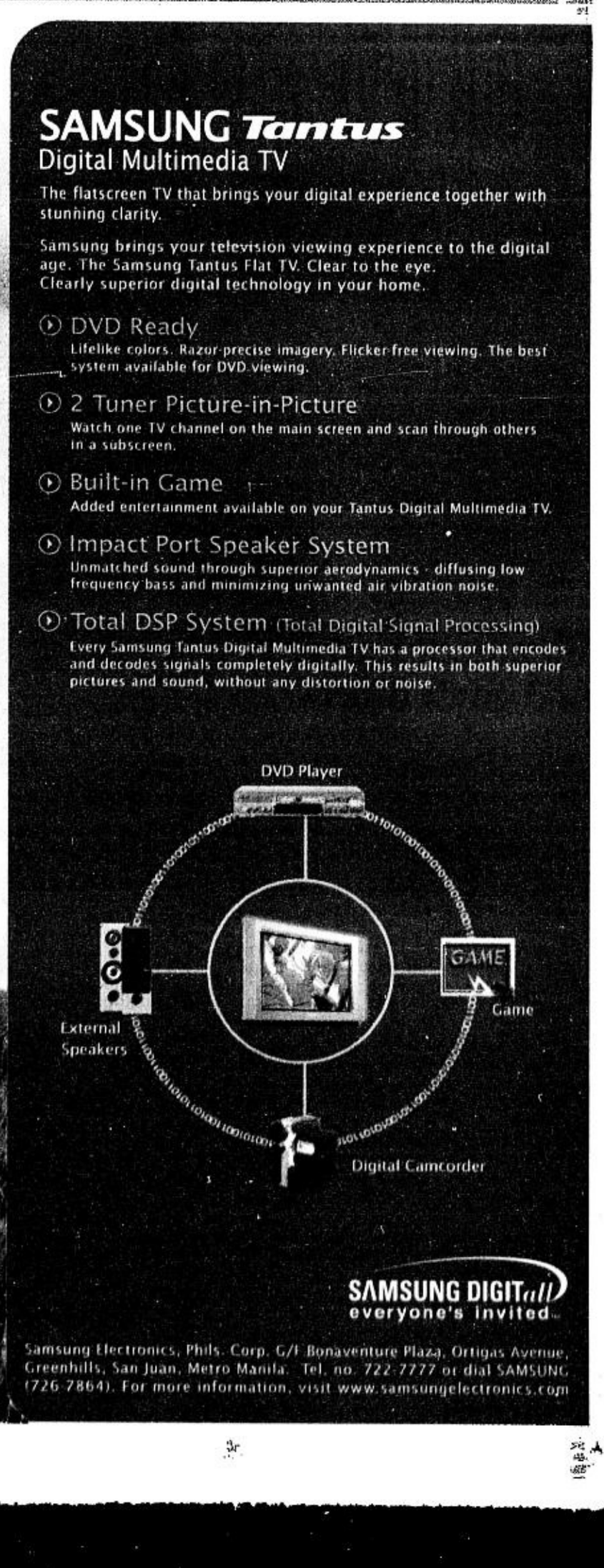






Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
16-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdimin da@dv.weblinq.com

Don't be kidnapped, priests told

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MALAYBALAY CITY—Priests assigned in strife-torn communities in Mindanao have been told to resist kidnap attempts at all costs, even if fighting the abductors would mean their death.

The advice, which came from bishops attending the 11th Mindanao Sulu Pastoral Conference here, was incorporated in a statement issued by the clergy on Friday at the Malaybalay Diocesan Formation Center.

The MSPC statement highlighted seven of the nine pastoral priorities of the National Pastoral Consultation on Church Renewal.

"The bishops will encourage Church people, the clergy and religious, to resist any abduction or kidnapping, if need be die rather than cooperate (with the kidnappers)," the MSPC statement said.

Monsignor Antonio Pueyo, DCC, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Cotabato said: "If necessary, die. Meaning if there are attempts to kidnap us, choose to be killed. Don't cooperate."

Pueyo said priests in Jolo have already agreed on it.

"In Jolo, that's what they agreed on," Pueyo said.

Fr. Danny Huwang, SJ, in his synthesis of the four-day gathering, said the Mindanao clergy shared a common observation that lawless groups prefer to seize priests, especially missionaries, because it would mean wider media mileage.

"Before, priests are respected by almost everyone regardless of religious affiliations but now we are kidnapping targets," Father Huang said.

Since 1986, 16 members of the clergy have fallen victims to kidnap gangs. The most recent one is Italian missionary Giuseppe Pierantoni, assistant parish priest of Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, who was seized on Oct. 17.

Four have died while under captivity or during the attempted kidnapping.

Latest to die from the hands of his would-be-captors was Fr. Rufus Halley, parish priest of Malabang, Lanao del Sur who was shot to death on Aug. 28 this year.

Condemnation

The MSPC participants also condemned the abduction of Father Pierantoni, who is still being held captive.

"We continue to lament the kidnappings that mysteriously remain unsolved," the Churchmen said.

But even as the clergy have apparently become the target of kidnap-for-ransom groups, Mindanao bishops said there is a need for priests to volunteer in troubled parishes and communities in Mindanao.

This, they said is in line with the clergy's renewed commitment to pursue the Church's mission despite the "pains."

The Church leaders recommended that priests should go on mission to Basilan, Jolo, Marawi City, Cotabato City and Kidapawan City and other troubled areas of the island.

Support asked

During the conference, former Abu Sayyaf captive Fr. Cirilo Nacorda asked his colleagues in the clergy to support his crusade against what he described as forces of evil not only in Basilan but in the whole of Mindanao.

Nacorda, parish priest of Lamitan who was twice abducted by the Abu Sayyaf bandits, also urged President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to create an independent body that would look deeper into his charges of collusion between the Abu Sayyaf and some military officers.

"It appears to me that President Macapagal only listens to the military (but) she should also listen to other groups, an independent body so that she could see the issue (from) a bigger (perspective)," he told the INQUIRER.

As he shared his crusade that made him a hot copy for Philippine dailies and the international press, Father Nacorda said he and the people of Basilan need prayers to continue with the fight.

"I can't take anymore what is happening in Basilan, we have to come out and speak for the truth," he said, explaining why he has to personally come out.

Although his life is in danger because of his exposés', Nacorda said he has to go on.

"I don't care if I get killed, as long as our story is told," he said.

Nacorda also shared his fear about the dangers that equally stalk the witnesses he brought during the congressional inquiries.

"I don't know if we will live longer," he said.

He told his colleagues that threats have been unending for the witnesses.

"Jaime dela Cruz (a witness against the military) has been harassed and now fears for his life," he said.

The joint congressional inquiry is yet to release the result of their findings but Nacorda said it would not contain the real issue surrounding the June 2 siege of Lamitan.

"It (would be) more on lapses on the part of the military," he said.

Nacorda said Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Rep. Prospero Pichay should listen to more witnesses before releasing their findings.

"Military personnel knowledgeable about the incident have come to me last week, expressing their willingness to testify and to tell all," the priest said.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Southern part of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Mostly cloudy with rains	Hi 34° Lo 21°
Laoag	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly cloudy with rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Mostly cloudy with rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Mostly cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Mostly cloudy with rains	Hi 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/10/27/01

P200,000 reward for Aguinaldo killers' arrest

BY ESTANISLAO CALDEZ
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Top police officials in Cagayan Valley have offered a P200,000-reward to anybody who could provide information on the killers of former Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

The offer came in the wake of reports that prosecutors and witnesses had been receiving death threats.

Aguinaldo, detested alleged "torturer" of political activists but a revered folk hero to Cagayanos, and his security aide, SPO1 Joey Garro, were gunned down by suspected communist assassins on June 13 as they were walking toward the lawmaker's apartment in Barangay Centro here.

Aguinaldo served as Cagayan governor from 1988 to 1998 before he was elected representative of the province's third congressional district in 1998.

The New People's Army claimed responsibility for the killing, saying Aguinaldo deserved his fate.

City Prosecutor Emerito Quilang and State Prosecutor Ferdinand Dalpig had inhibited themselves from handling the Aguinaldo case after receiving death threats.

Supt. Ricardo Padilla, Cagayan police director, said Bella Paragua, who told the police she had seen Aguinaldo's attackers, had expressed fear about her safety after she also received death threats.

Shortly after the murder, a man riding in a motorcycle without a plate number approached and gave her a rosary wrapped in a piece of paper, Paragua said.

In July, four men again approached and asked her if she was Paragua. They left immediately when she asked who they were.

Aguinaldo, 54, led the military rebel forces in Cagayan in August 1987 and 1989. He was then provincial commander of the now defunct Philippine Constabulary.

He was subsequently cleared of rebellion charges. He resigned from the military and served as Cagayan governor for three terms.

A BOY learns how to support his parents' fight for wage increases by joining them in rallies. TOOTS SOBERANO

Wage bill delay blamed on JDV

BAGUIO CITY—Employees of the Baguio City government dominated a rally here on Thursday of about 1,000 marchers, led by the militant Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), to demand for higher wages.

But the ralliers focused their tirade on Speaker Jose de Venecia, whom the party-list group Bayan Muna had blamed for efforts to delay the passage of House Bill 2605, which was sponsored by Sectoral Rep. Crispin Beltran of Bayan Muna to increase workers' salaries by P125.

Roberto de Castro, Bayan Muna deputy secretary-general, accused De Venecia of using his allies in the Sunshine Coalition in the House of Representatives to block the wage bill.

"We are afraid that De Venecia will use his position to turn down the bill," he said.

The bill is with the House committee on rules that, he said, is controlled by the majority.

"The committee can block the bill for discussion...(but) we are challenging them to be fair by passing the bill for plenary debate," De Castro said.

"If the committee junks it, people should stop hoping that House Bill 2606 which raises government salaries by P3,000 will also be ignored...(Our) testing ground is House Bill 2605," he said.

De Castro said at least 17 members of the House minority had assured Bayan Muna, an ally of the administration, of their support.

He said seven members of the majority had also promised to support the bill.

De Castro said the profit-sharing agreement initially proposed by the House labor committee "does not assure workers of enough pay."

"There is no assurance that business owners will declare their profits honestly...(for sure) they will only be giving crumbs to their workers while keeping a big share of the profit to themselves," he said.

Victor Aquitania, president of the association of Baguio City Hall Employees (Ace), said the salary of government workers could barely support their families.

He said the 5 percent increase given to them last July was "useless."

"The government is taking back what they had given us through huge deductions," he added.

He said that a regular employee receiving P10,000 a month will only be taking home less than P5,000.
Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Phones deactivated in 3 gov't offices

MATI, Davao Oriental—Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil ordered the local phone company here to deactivate the direct long distance dialing feature of telephones of offices under the provincial government after she discovered that most of the long distance calls were not for official transactions, but personal calls of some employees.

Palma Gil also allowed the disconnection of telephone lines in at least three offices because of swelling unpaid bills.

Connie Go, Palma Gil's executive assistant who also owns the Mati Telephone Corp. told the INQUIRER that the provincial government's unpaid telephone bills is now close to P1 million.

The telephone connections were severed in the offices of the provincial treasurer, the provincial prosecutor and the register of deeds.

Go said the three offices incurred most of the unpaid bills.

Provincial prosecutor Pableo Baldoza said the disconnection of their telephone line "would greatly affect our operations such as our communications to and from our regional and head offices."

Since assuming her post, Palma Gil has been in a cost-cutting binge, reasoning out that the provincial government has limited funds.

Earlier, she also restricted the use of the capitol's air-conditioned conference hall to cut down on power bills.

Palma Gil now holds her regular meetings at the capitol's open-air alley. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pulupandan coal-fired power plant ECC recalled

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez recalled on Thursday the Environment Compliance Certificate issued to the Central Negros Power Corp., effectively stopping its construction of a 50-megawatt coal-fired power plant at Barangay Patic, Pulupandan, 31 km south of here.

Alvarez said the CNPC should cease and desist from undertaking any activities in connection with the implementation of the project.

Romana de los Reyes, convenor of the Negrosanons Against the Coal Fired Power Plant, yesterday said that "while it has taken almost five years for the government to decide to stop the CNPC coal plant, we are jubilant that one government decision-maker has finally listened to the voice of the people."

The proposed coal fired power plant, while favored by Pulupandan's local government officials, has faced stiff opposition from the People of Pulupandan Against the Coal Fired Power Plant, members of the local clergy and other environmental groups.

Alvarez, in a letter Thursday to CNPC president Facundo Yaneza informing him of the recall order, said: "There is still the strong perception and apprehension that the residential and school areas are too close to the site of the proposed stack, which may cause adverse effects on the residents, school children, teachers, workers and the environment as well, by the effect in the long term."

Alvarez told Yaneza that the DENR acknowledged CNPC's desire to contribute to the Philippine economy and to be certified as environment friendly, but "noble considerations is never superior with environmental considerations."

"Our decision to recall the ECC is an ultimate precautionary measure," he said.

Alvarez said the decision to recall the ECC was reached because of CNPC's failure to submit to the Environment Management Board a comprehensive Land Use Plan approved by the provincial board of Negros Occidental.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Review Committee and the approving authority then must have overlooked that the CNPC was required to submit first a comprehensive land use plan duly approved by the PB and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board before the ECC could be issued, he said.

The CNPC also failed to submit a relocation plan for those who will be affected by the project, a requirement before the ECC issuance, Alvarez added.

The opponents of the project had called the recalled ECC a "midnight issuance." It was issued in January by then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles shortly before President Joseph Estrada was ousted from office.

De los Reyes said her group commends Alvarez for his resolve to enforce the provisions of the Philippine Environmental Policy regarding the right of the people to a healthy environment.

"The end of the struggle against the coal plant is a collective victory of the Negrosanons. The fight has succeeded because of the unwavering opposition of thousands of poor and rich Negrosanons," de los Reyes said.

Army sergeant, militiaman slain in duel

BACOLOD CITY—An army detachment commander and a militiaman both died in a gun duel at 7 p.m. Friday at the public market of Barangay Cudcud, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

Two civilians caught in the crossfire sustained injuries, police investigation said.

San Carlos City police investigators identified the fatalities as a certain Sergeant Limuel Titong, a detachment commander of 78th Infantry Battalion stationed in Barangay Cudcud, and Roger Esquerida, a member of the Civilian Auxiliary Forces Geographical Unit assigned to Titong's detachment.

The duel occurred following a heated exchange of words between Titong and Esquerida. The two quarreled after Titong reprimanded the militiaman for constantly playing mahjong at the public market, according to Lt. Col. Jonas Sumagaysay, commanding officer of the 78th IB.

Police said Titong and Esquerida both fell on the ground simultaneously after they pumped each other with bullets. Both died on the spot from wounds in the different parts of their body. Titong was armed with a .45 caliber pistol while Esquerida used a .357 homemade magnum revolver.

The police identified the two bystanders slightly injured in the incident as Dodong Avila and Wil Templa. They were brought to the San Carlos City District Hospital for treatment.

Supt. Ricardo de la Paz, San Carlos City police chief, said the police was still trying to find out who started the gun battle.
Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

ROUNDUP

Free treatment

DAGUPAN CITY—To help drivers found positive for using drugs, the local chapter of the Philippine Mental Health Society has offered free detoxification and psychiatric evaluation and treatment. Jesus Canto, PMHS Pangasinan chapter chair, said the tests are also required for applicants of driver's license.
Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Trader, helper slain

BAYAMBANG, Pangasinan—A businessman and his helper were shot and killed in what appeared to be a robbery attempt in Barangay Ligue on Saturday. Killed were Maximo Caragan, a storeowner at the town market, and Joel Padua. Police said the robbers got nothing but a wallet with P60 cash owned by Padua and a karaoke. The robbers fled in a red Besta van.
Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NPA slain in encounter

LIBON, Albay—A suspected New People's Army rebel was killed while his companion and two soldiers were seriously wounded in an encounter at a far-flung village here on Wednesday. Maj. Jose Broso, Armed Forces Public Assistance Group head for Bicol, identified the slain rebel as Ka Jomar. Wounded were Alex Sanadan alias Ka Toks, Pfc. Ducay and civilian agent Joven Bordios Jr.
Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dispersal at Nissan

STA. ROSA, Laguna—Two workers were arrested and eight others injured during a dispersal of the picket of workers of Nissan Motors Phils. here about 6:30 a.m., Wednesday. Labor leader Joel Castro, said security guards sprayed water and teargas at the workers. An unidentified officer from Camp Vicente Lim admitted that the police were deployed in the scene of the incident. The head of the Nissan workers union said they were "supposed to have a dialogue with the management concerning their collective bargaining agreement, but the management instead kicked out 54 union members." *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Robbers take P4-M

CEBU CITY—About P4 million in cash was taken by three armed robbers from two employees and two security guards of the Land Bank of the Philippines who were on board the company-owned pick up around 8:30 a.m., Friday. Police said the robbery was staged at corner P. Del Rosario and D. Jakosalem Streets. The armed robbers disarmed the LBP security guards and took their service shotguns and the two bags of money, police said.
Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Complaint vs MARO

BACOLOD CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation has filed a murder complaint against the Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer of Pontevedra, Negros Occidental and six others for killing an 82-year-old representative of a landowner. One of those named in the complaint filed before the Negros Occidental Prosecutor's Office was MARO Rosbie Meralles. The NBI said the seven allegedly conspired to kill Juan Quinsay Gilpo in August at the victim's residence in Sitio Biante, Pontevedra. Gilpo was reportedly helping his adopted daughter, a landowner, question the land awards given by Meralles to some farmers.
Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Jailbreak, not rescue

TAGBILARAN CITY—Police here said the escape of eight prisoners from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology jail in Ubay town on Oct. 17 was a jailbreak and not a New People's Army rescue operation. Supt. Sancho Bernales, Bohol police director, ruled out the NPA's involvement in the escape as none of the eight escapees was a political detainee. He said he also received reports that a hold-up in Sitio Sambagan, Barangay San Jose, President Garcia town was the handiwork of some of the escapees. "The fact that they stage the hold-up proved that they were bandits," he added.
Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Against importation

TACLOBAN CITY—Close to 150 employees of the National Food Authority, grains retailers and farmers here staged a march-rally Thursday to oppose the government's move to fully liberalize rice importation and to privatize the NFA. Ruben Manatad, chair of the NFA Employees Association in Eastern Visayas, said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's fully liberalizing rice importation would threaten the country's food security. At least 300 NFA workers in the region would be left jobless if the privatization pushes through, Manatad said.
Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

IRRI has tool vs anthrax

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The International Rice Research Institute here said it is prepared to deal with anthrax and other biologically hazardous organisms which might be transmitted by mail.

It has converted an equipment that detects bacteria, fungi and other harmful organisms in plants, to one that can accommodate mails.

The equipment consists of an airtight glass enclosure, which was redesigned to sort mails and segregate those with suspicious contents for further examination at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang.

Glenn Enriquez, IRRI's senior manager for Safety and Security Services told the INQUIRER that the institute will not take any chance when dealing with biological threats.

Thus, they found it urgent to device a means to contain possible contaminants to protect its staff from potential disasters.

Emmy Ballesfin, head of Central Registry Services said the speed of processing the mails using the enclosure is not disrupted, though the sorter needs to adjust himself to the new method.

The equipment "does not kill anthrax and other biological organisms," Enriquez clarified. He said "it is simply an airtight hazard-free compartment to protect the sorter and all IRRI staff from any hazardous material in the mails."

The sorter is safe from any contaminant because of his "particulate mask," hazard-proof gloves and enclosure that filters bacteria, virus or any organisms as tiny as 0.1 microns.

But Postmaster Gilberto de Lumban said his office in Sta. Cruz, Laguna does not have the money to buy gadgets such as IRRI's mail sorting device.

De Lumban said mail sorting is done at the Central Post Office in Manila, so the threat of biological contaminants is "minimal." ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Hundred Islands a geological monument

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ALAMINOS CITY, Pangasinan—The Hundred Islands National Park (HINP), the premier tourist attraction of Pangasinan, has been declared a "National Geological Monument" and will be placed under a comprehensive conservation and management program.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippine Tourism Authority and the National Committee on Geological Sciences (NCGS) made the declaration on Friday when the geological marker containing the "declaration and geological evolution" of the Hundred Islands was unveiled.

The HINP is the fifth to be declared as a national geological monument by the NCGS. The four others are the Montalban Gorge in Rizal, Taal Volcano in Batangas, Chocolate Hills in Bohol and the Sand Dunes in Ilocos Norte.

The declaration of the HINP as a geological monument is expected to revive efforts to conserve the park.

The HINP is beset with ecological problems such as pollution brought about by the proliferation of commercial and residential establishments within the foreshore area of Barangay Lucap and squatter colonies in Sitios Telbang and Recudo.

Other problems include the conversion of 46 hectares of mangrove areas within the park into fishponds, the proliferation of fishpens and cages including the establishment of a private milkfish breeding project, extraction and gathering of corals around the park and blast fishing.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the HINP's declaration as a national geological monument "will provide the vital impetus for the HINP's preservation, not only as one of the prime tourist destinations in the country but also as a laboratory for geological research."

"If we recognize the meaning of this great memorial, we will recognize and acknowledge that as newcomers in the face of the earth, we shall with devotion and understanding protect the great gift (of nature)," Alvarez said.

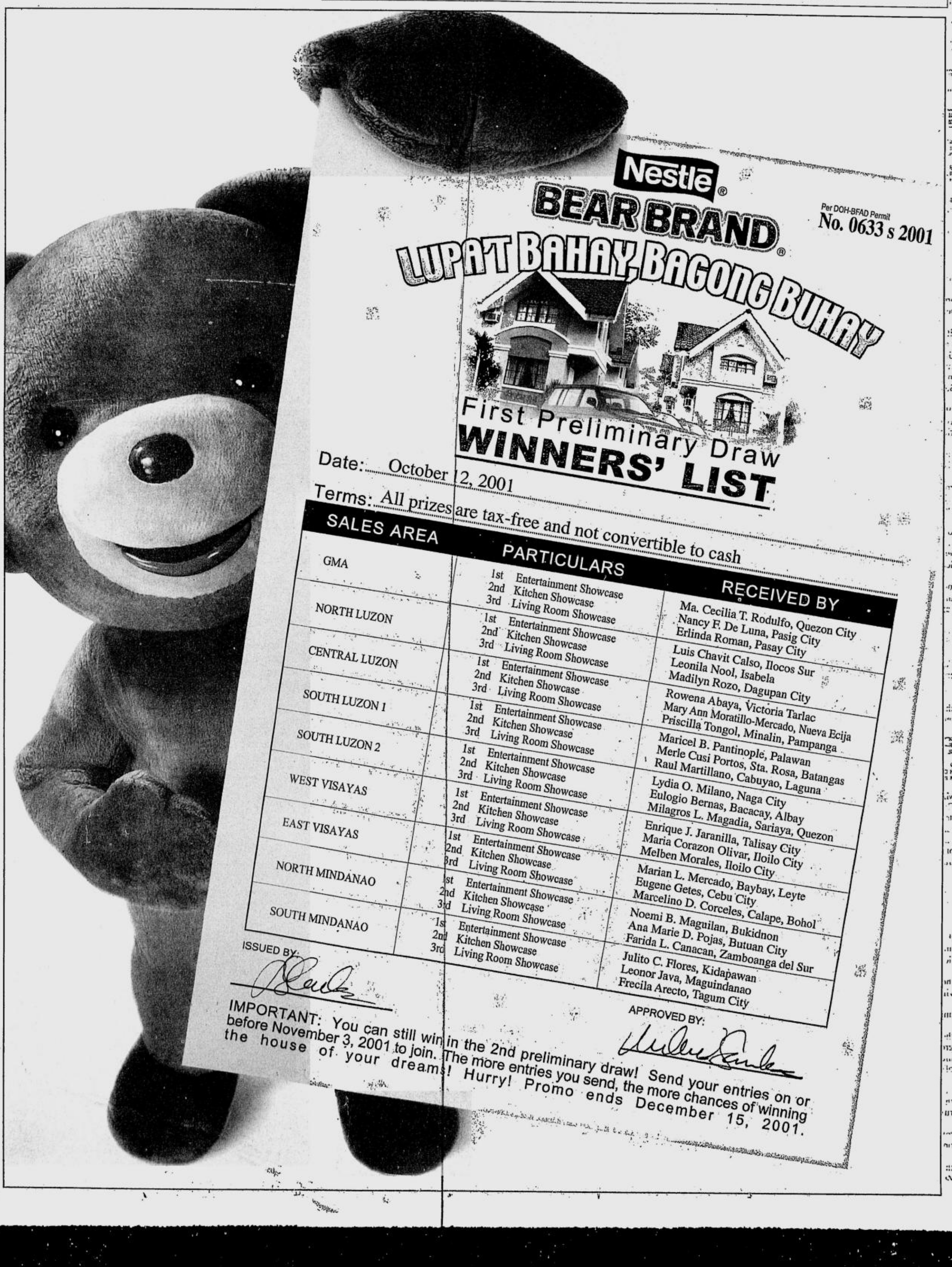
According to the NCGS, the Hundred Islands were shaped from uplifted coral deposits by the "erosional action of rainwater and groundwater."

The declaration was in recognition of its special characteristics, scientific importance, uniqueness and high scenic value.

The NCGS said an understanding of the geological forces that brought about the geological monuments is expected to arouse greater interest in the scenic spots thereby promoting travel and tourism.

It would likewise increase scientific knowledge and awareness of such monuments and result in appreciation and concern for the protection and preservation of these astounding features of the environment.

The HINP consists of 123 islets of varying sizes that cover 1,844 hectares in the west of the Lingayen Gulf, off the coast of Alaminos City. It was established as a national park on Jan. 18, 1946.



INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

Tragedy stalks the harvest season

BY MA. KRISTINA E. CASSION
Agusan del Sur

HECTARES upon hectares of upland palay spread in the hinterlands of San Luis town, waiting for the whistle of scythes to claim its golden glory. It is harvest time once more. For six months of feeding on kamote and other root crops, the people here are now anticipating the sweet smell of newly cooked native rice. Surprisingly, only a handful was around to do the mighty task of harvesting.

"The military has come. We are afraid to go out," says *Nanay* Emil as she gazes longingly on a nearby field.

For over a week now, soldiers of the Army's 402nd Brigade entered the Banwaon *lumads'* territory, hot on the tracks of members of the New People's Army rebels who raided the town's police station on Oct. 8 and carted away firearms and ammunition.

For three days, they stayed in the homes of civilians in Barangay Balit. Edgar, an employee of the Religious of the Good Shepherd (RGS), said in one instance, the soldiers searched the dormitory of the schoolchildren of the Urios Extension School on suspicion that young rebels were seen entering the dormitory. After a thorough search, however, no rebel was found.

After vacating the area, civilians reported seeing soldiers deep in the forests of Barangay Mahagsay.

"It is dangerous to go out when the military is here.

Even if they say we don't have to be afraid of them, but our experiences taught us to be wary of their presence," says Dodong Precioso, a farmer and a *habal-habal* (passenger motorcycle) driver.

Heavy militarization in the area started in the '80s under the command of Army Maj. Lave Manpatilan, who was eventually liquidated by an NPA sparrow unit for his "sins to the people." In 1997, the farmland of Datu Manghumagpay in Barangay Kiamo, Mahagsay was fired at causing much damage to his crops and farm animals.

In May this year, heavy artillery shelling rocked the whole Banwaon community and in August, they struck again imprisoning suspected rebels who turned out to be ordinary rattan gatherers. All of these have left a deep distrust and fear in the hearts of the Banwaons, that they would rather sacrifice their harvest, than risk their lives.

A hard cycle

Planting and harvesting is a long and arduous cycle for the *lumads*. Unlike the lowlanders who can readily harvest their bounty after three months, it would take those in the uplands five to six months.

"Some would plant in June but others do that earlier so we can harvest in October," shares a resident of Barangay Sta. Rita.

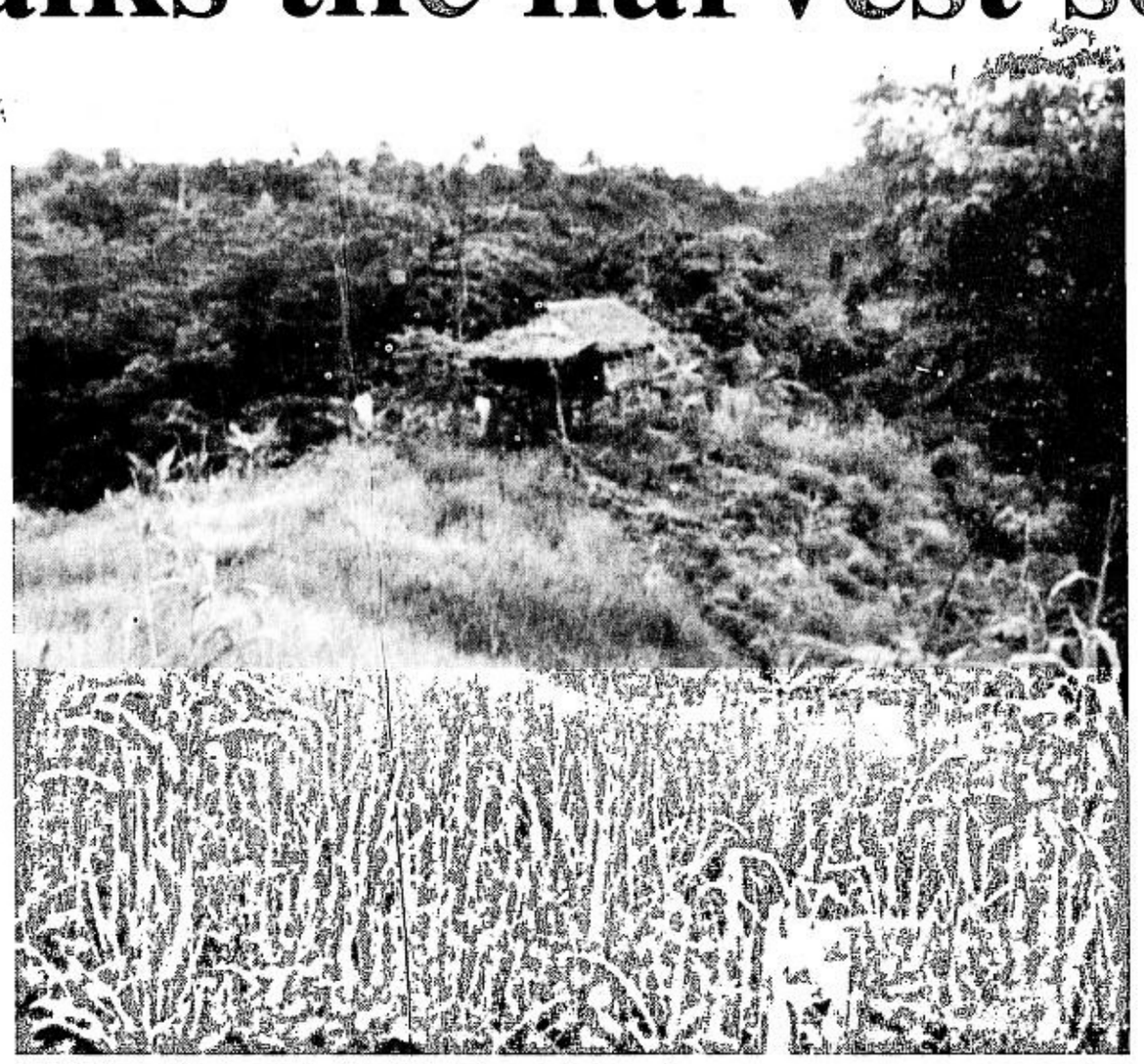
When it is planting season, the *lumads* start to clear their lands from weeds and let it dry for two weeks. Then they burn it and plow the area. For some who are lucky enough to have carabaos, it is easier. But majority has to do it by hand. There are two ways to plant the seedlings:

One is to scatter the seedlings (*sabwag*) and the other is to individually plant the seedlings directly to the land (*bagkay*).

For Ottô, *sabwag* is easier if you have many seedlings and less people to help, but it is also risky since it might reach less fertile and rocky soils. *Bagkay*, on the other hand, needs a lot of people but is also a sure way of planting.

Simultaneous with the planting of palay, the natives also plant kamote so that after the palay is harvested, the root crop is already deep in the ground and grows into maturity.

The root crop serves the *lumads* well as they wait for the next harvest season.



LARGE tracts of land covered with upland rice is ready for harvest. MA. KRISTINA E. CASSION

Constant weeding is needed as the seedling grows to maturity. Six months after, the palay can now be harvested.

But unlike the *bisayâ* (non-natives), rituals accompany every step of the planting process up to harvest time to appease the spirits that own the land and pray for a bountiful harvest.

"We do not eat what we have harvested if we have not yet conducted a ritual. Because if we do that, the spirit of the harvest will get angry and will not grant us good harvest the next time," explains Datu Loay-Loay of Balit.

The next planting season, the *lumads* will find another field to plant on. This method, as seasoned farmers say, contributes to the continuous fertility of the topsoil.

Intrusions

Harvest bounty is said to be getting less and less as the years go by.

Datu Loay-Loay complains: "Even if we fulfill the needed rituals, the harvest gets lesser. This year it is seldom to have a sack full of palay."

The Banwaon datu attributes this problem to non-natives' intrusion to their culture. He said some of his tribesmen sell their harvest for a price that was why the *igbabarok*, the spirit who owns the rice field, gets angry.

Datu Yano-Yano of Binatunan says: "Before, our capital was our strength in numbers. We had what we call *hungos-hungos*. With this system, we helped each other out in planting and harvesting. That was why large hectares of land could be planted on because many hands helped do that. In exchange, we fed each other with our previous harvest or from the wild boars and deer we hunted. But now no one would help you if you do not give money in exchange for labor."

The datu also complained that the culture of money from the non-natives have influenced a lot of their tribesmen that even kamote tops are sold for a price. Before there was the barter system: salt for vegetables, wild boar meat for kamote and others. Now, everything is for a price.

As guardians of nature, environmental destruction has contributed to the ruin of the very essence of the *lumad* culture. Before, the highlands were a vast land for food gathering but because of the intrusion of logging and tree plantation firms and the constant militarization, the spirits of the land have refused to yield food for them.

"Bombings are never good because the spirits are startled. Bloodshed in the fields is not good for the land and the spirits. But with the constant militarization, everywhere there are bombings and bloodshed," laments Datu Yano-Yano.

This problem is compounded with political intrusions from the government, especially that of the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), when they confer non-natives with the status of a datu.

"These *bisayâs* do not know our culture. They do not know that nature and the tribe are interrelated. That when they sold our land to the logging and tree plantation companies, they are selling our tribe, our soul and the very essence of what makes us Banwaons," says Datu Loay-Loay.

"This is why we are suffering from poverty because the gods think we have veered away from our culture, from what our forefathers and their fathers before them have taught," explains Datu Loay-Loay.

Behind the face of poverty and the threat of extinction lies a chronic warfare against the intrusions of the non-natives, the military and the government, that has beset the heart of the Banwaon community.

The datus try to hold on to their culture, but intrusions have greatly influenced their tribesmen. If these persist, they are afraid the future would work against them. By then, the Banwaons may exist no more.

"Our tribe will only survive if there will be an end to these political, economic and cultural intrusions," emphasizes Datu Loay-Loay.

Camping out for peace

BY BUTCH D. ENERIO
Bacolod, Lanao del Norte

ABOUT 2,000 boy and girl scouts, Muslims and Christians, from the different towns of the province gathered here last weekfor a joint jamboree that was dubbed the ``Scouts' Journey For Peace.''

The event, was the first in the province where the participants, mostly 10 and 11 years old, coming from the 22 school districts, put up separate camps in a single site to show their scouting skills and individual talents. They also wanted to take the opportunity to learn, in real situations, how to be independent while maintaining teamwork.

What was more significant in the gathering of the scouts was the strengthening of the bond between the Muslim and Christian children although talk of religion was not part of the jamboree. The children have experienced conflict particularly last year's all-out war by the government against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Col. Rodante Larios, 26th Infantry Battalion commander, whose men provided security for the scouts, said the joint jamboree was conceptualized by Gov. Imelda Dimaporo and Bacolod Mayor Joselito Mequiabas as part of the peace initiative of the provincial government to enhance better understanding among the children from the Muslim and Christian families in the area.

In March last year, war between the government troops and the MILF broke out, which started in Kauswagan town here. Thousands of residents, including those of the neighboring towns, left their homes and fled to safety. Children and women sought refuge in school buildings-turned evacuation centers, while others went to their relatives to as far as Marawi City in Lanao del Sur.

The majority of the scouts who attended the jamboree witnessed the dislocation of residents and the hardship suffered by women and children. And when asked what they thought and felt about the war, the children were one in condemning the war.

"The jamboree was another venue for the children to internalize the values—humility, loyalty, obedience...especially the respect for others—we taught them in schools," said Rosalinda Mendez Cabigas, Bacolod education district supervisor.

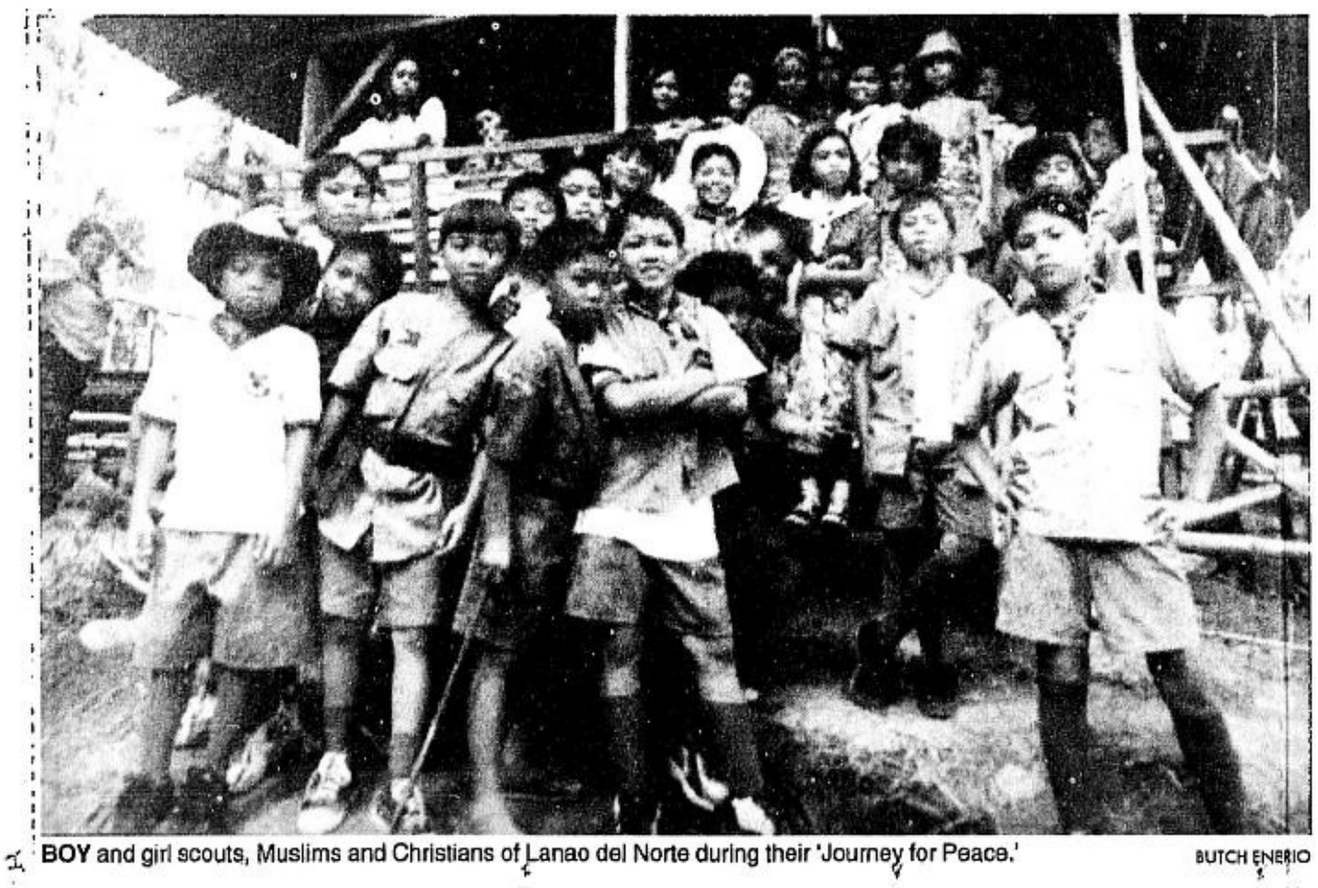
She said religion was never the root cause of the conflict, "it is rather not having the good values among the inhabitants and the lack of communication that start a conflict. But generally, the Christians and Muslims in Lanao del Norte co-exist peacefully," Cabigas added.

She said in classrooms, teachers emphasized that while there are Moro rebels there are also non-Moro rebels, much as there are bad Christians and bad Muslims.

"The emphasis was in order for the children to know that it is bad to label people, or call them names simply because members of their tribe are having certain character," Cabigas said.

The jamboree site was picture perfect: on the hills of Barangays Esperanza and Babalayan, where tents of the scouts were erected under coconut trees and overlooking a hanging bridge over the cool, clear waters of a cascading river.

It was like war never erupted.



BOY and girl scouts, Muslims and Christians of Lanao del Norte during their 'Journey for Peace.' BUTCH ENERIO

Priest rebuilds destroyed bridge of peace

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ
Malaybalay City

A SON of Malaybalay is now "rehabilitating" a shattered community in war-torn Lanao del Sur hoping to revive what was once a community of peoples of various faiths where love and respect prevail between and among Christians and Muslims.

"It's a gargantuan job, a difficult one yet doable," according to Fr. Flordelito Nazareno, who took the place of Irish missionary Fr. Rufus Halley in Our Lady of Peace parish in Malabang town in Lanao del Sur.

Father Nazareno is one of the 213 priests, bishops and lay people attending a four-day Mindanao Sulu Pastoral Conference at the Malaybalay Diocesan Formation Center 1.

"I welcome this new task, we can achieve what we want because the parishioners are behind me," Father Nazareno said.

Halley, Father Popong to his parishioners, was killed on Aug. 28 after he resisted kidnapping by about seven heavily armed men on a highway outside the town proper. All but one of his assailants remained at large.

His death shocked the world. He was the second missionary killed by gunmen in Mindanao. In 1985, Italian missionary Tulio Favali was killed in Tulunan, North Cotabato by members of a fanatic group.

Malabang, a predominantly Maranao Muslim town, is a coastal community of Lanao del Sur, site of Moro rebellion in the '70s. Christians constitute only a small fraction of the town's estimated 20,000 people.

Peoples of different faiths lived together through the efforts of Father Popong who built a "bridge" of peace and understanding between Christians and Muslims.

He was well-loved by both faiths so much so that both Christians and Muslims wept when he passed away.

Maranaos publicly wept as they lined up to see his remains at Our Lady of Peace Church in Malabang.

FATHER NAZARENO

One Maranao woman even remarked that "Father Popong's death could be compared to the death of 10 people...that's how we loved him."

Father Nazareno is a member of the Malaybalay Diocese but opted to share his life and services to the people of Malabang in preparation for his two-year Islamic studies.

He said Father Popong's death has shaken the foundation of the bridge he built in the past years but this is slowly being "rehabilitated, rebuilt and promoted not only by the Church workers but by the people themselves."

Everybody believes that creating an atmosphere of love and respect in a culturally and religiously diverse community can only be achieved through inter-religious dialogues, he added.

For for Father Nazareno, while rebuilding and rehabilitation works continued in Malabang, the call for justice for the fallen priest continues and that the incident would not hinder the Church's mission of promoting peace in Mindanao.

Little angel found inside carton box ends up in British home

(From page A1)

"We knew that we wanted her to be our daughter," Stephen said.

Somewhere along the way, Sarah was renamed Ellie May.

When the INQUIRER saw her on Oct. 18 in the North Forbes, Makati, living room of Allan Collins, the British ambassador to the Philippines, Ellie May was a happy little "angel" running around with a huge smile on her face.

Who would have thought this little girl had been left to die in a Maggie noodle box in a rubbish heap three years ago?

Ellie May was laughing and shouting *ate* (elder sister), raising her arms, asking to be cuddled like any normal, happy kid.

In a few hours, she was to fly to Dorset, England, to be with the Boormans, her new family.

And Ellie makes three

The Boormans, both 39 and married for 18 years, had previously adopted two Filipina girls. Katie was adopted seven years ago and Anna, now 6, was taken in when she was just 3, like Ellie May.

The Boormans had decided to adopt children because it was too risky for Lydia's health to have one of her own.

"Her two sisters are so excited to see her," Stephen said when he was interviewed at the British ambassador's residence.

The residence had been Ellie May's home for a week after she met Stephen who had come from England to fetch her. This was six months after the Boormans had been matched with her through the Inter-Country Adoption Board (Icab) based in the Philippines.

Surgery needed

The Boormans have arranged surgery for Ellie May on Nov. 5 at the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London to correct a congenital defect.

Ellie May's condition had resulted in the disfigurement of her face, particularly her nose. The fissure in front of her skull did not close and a small mass, a part of her brain sac, protruded just above where the bridge of her nose should have been.

According to Stephen, the original plan was for the British Embassy to help raise the money needed for Ellie May's operation at a hospital in Manila. But they got word that the London hospital had agreed to undertake the operation for free.

Britain's health-care system can provide free medical service because a large part of the taxes paid to the government goes to welfare services.

Stephen said his wife and two kids wanted to go to Manila to get Ellie May. But because of the terrorist attacks in the United States, Stephen said he decided to fly alone.

Stephen brought pictures of his wife and Katie and Anna so he could show these to Ellie May.

He said Katie and Anna had adjusted well in England.

Anna, before the Boormans adopted her, lost one of her eyes to glaucoma. Like Ellie May, Anna came from the Shalom "Bata" Rescue Center. Anna received medical treatment in England and she is a very happy kid now, said Stephen.

He said Katie and Anna knew they were adopted and that they came from the Philippines. The Boormans even taught them to use the Filipino word for their grandparents—*lolo* and *lola*.

They are well loved in England and are quite popular in the Boormans' community in Dorset.

"They are well-behaved and happy kids. We just love them," Stephen said.

The Boormans' happy experience with Katie and Anna prompted them to adopt another girl from the Philippines.

Asian kids in demand

There are many childless couples in England, Stephen said, and many are adopting Asian kids.

There are not many young English kids up for adoption in Britain and most of them have their own emotional baggage having come from broken homes, Stephen said.

But adopting kids from Asia is pretty costly.

Stephen said they had to spend £5,000 to adopt a child. This amount includes the fee for Icab, visa fee, airfare, cost for the home study report and the psychological reports. There are also regular visits from a social worker to check if things are going along well.

Paperwork, examinations and analysis of whether the Boormans were suitable parents for Ellie May took some time to be completed.

A Filipino child cannot just be adopted by foreigners. The priority still is local adoption. Only when there are no takers for a child here can the adoption bureau consider foreign adoptive parents.

In the case of Ellie May, the orphanage first had to look for suitable adoptive parents in the Philippines who could take her. When that was unsuccessful, only then was an advertisement for her and other orphans placed abroad.

Full of affection

That Thursday afternoon when the INQUIRER saw Ellie May at the British ambassador's residence, Ellie May was running around the comfortable sofa, playing with her dolls.

Anne Collins, wife of the British ambassador, cuddled her lovingly. Ellie May showed off her new yellow puppet doll. She ran to her Stephen, smiled, and showed him the doll.

Then she reached out to this writer, asking for a hug.

Ms Collins said Ellie May was so full of affection at an early age that she had touched everybody's heart during her brief stay at the ambassador's residence.

"She is an angel to everybody," agreed Stephen.

Recently, the Collinses received word that Ellie May was very happy with her new family.

The Boormans had promised to shower Ellie May and Katie and Anna with love and attention, provide them a good education, and raise them well.

The Boormans feel extremely lucky to have finally found the daughters they have longed for.

Gov't execs . . .

(From page A1)

Beltran, co-author of House Bill 2605 that seeks a P125 across-the-board wage increase, said Tiglao's statement that workers should live within their means and make do with the P30 emergency cost-of-living allowance approved by the Metro Manila regional tripartite wage board was "callous and ignorant."

"He probably spends more in a day than the workers earn in a week," Beltran said in a statement, adding that employers and government officials could easily claim that they were living within their means "because they have a lot of it."

In Davao City, Bayan Muna's Joel Virador said there was no way for workers to take a vacation during the five-day All Saints' Day holiday to prop up the sagging tourism industry.

"Going on a vacation is a luxury for Filipinos," he told the INQUIRER. "If they have money at all, they will think first of buying food than spending it on unnecessary things."

Virador was reacting to the President's call Friday for Filipinos to boost domestic tourism by taking out-of-town trips amid the declining revenue from foreign visitors.

He said the government should first ensure that workers would have the capability to spend by raising their wages by at least P125.

"The P30 increase is clearly not enough for workers to go on a vacation," he said. "In fact, the P125 increase they are asking for is already low compared to the actual cost of living, which is P509 a day for each family."

Layoffs

The President herself clearly indicated her disapproval of the proposed P125 increase.

While stopping short of asking Congress to drop HB 2605, she renewed her warning that such an increase would lead to more layoffs.

"I also find the (P30 increase) too small," she said in "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," her new TV-radio program. "But as I said in my State of the Nation Address (Sona), we have to create jobs, not destroy them. If we insist on P125, many firms will close down or lay off workers."

But Beltran said it was easy for Malacañang and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines to tell workers to accept the P30 increase and "understand the situation" because they were not the ones whose children were being pulled out of school because of lack of money.

He said it was "the height of injustice" for the President to be "squandering taxpayers' money to support the war of aggression by the United States against Afghanistan" while refusing to uplift workers' lives by giving a substantial wage increase.

The regional wage board approved two weeks ago the P30 additional allowance for Metro Manila workers. It will be released in two tranches—the first in November and the second in February.

The increase will cover only workers earning P290 and below, and will exempt "distressed companies" or those with 20-percent capital impairment.

Militant labor groups like the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino have held mass actions to call for higher wages, but Malacañang and the Department of Labor and Employment have ruled out further increases.

Beltran submitted to the House of Representatives hundreds of thousands of signatures gathered by the KMU to support the proposed P125 wage increase last week.

HB 2605 was passed in toto by the House committee on labor and employment shortly afterward. The measure will be submitted for first reading anytime soon.

Reasonable

Asked for her comment on that development, the President said: "I have confidence that our Congress is comprised of intelligent and reasonable people."

Asked again, she said she believed "that Congress is reasonable, that its members are reasonable."

"Of course, it's good that we debate this so we see all sides," she added.

The President took a swipe at the KMU and other labor groups demanding the P125 increase.

She said she had heard from "several moderate labor unions" that "they understood they had to settle for P30 in the meantime because the alternative is the loss of jobs."

"Maybe to those who insist on P125, it's OK for them if we lose jobs and our system collapses," she said. "Maybe they are not interested in our upholding our system."

Virador said that if the daily cost of living were the base used in the demand for a wage increase, the amount should be at least P250.

"But we also considered the predicament of the business sector, especially with the crisis, so we settled for less than what should be the ideal increase," he said.

Virador also said that, given their finances, Filipino families would rather stay home.

"The farthest they can go is the next barangay," he said.

He added that if workers only had the capability to spend, they would go on a vacation even without the President's prodding. *With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

ETO NA!

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JORDAN SARMIENTO, Greenhills, San Juan
DANILO S. BAUTISTA, San Juan
ROBERT LAJAOLAJAO, Greenhills, San Juan
RODRIGO M. JADULCO II, Sta. Lucia, San Juan
ANGELICA ABESAMIS, 30 Polk St., N. Greenhills, SJ
WILLIAM FRANCIS F. MAGNO, Bacoor, Cavite
ERNESTO L. OROG, COA, Q.C.
LORNA L. NEPOMUCENO, 5784 Felipe St., Pobl., Mkti City
ZENON LIBATON, Greenhills, San Juan
JESUS M. CAPCO, Makati city
JOVITA B. PRUDENCIO, Project 3, QC
RENE FLORES, St. Anthony, Cainta
MITOS T. PIEGA, Taytay, Rizal
MARILOU BALINGASA, Marikina
ROSARIO A. BAÑARES, Antipolo City
LEONORA CATIVA, Antipolo City
HERLYN GUTILBAN, Antipolo City
RONALD MODAVONG, Antipolo City
BARMIY S. BERINA, Makati City
TESS VELASCO, Antipolo City
LUIS M. SALAC, Taytay, Rizal
JOHN CRUZ, SSS Vill., Marikina
JOEY L. LEGARDA, Poblacion, Makati City
ALMIRA CLAMOR, Salcedo Vill., Makati City
ALFREDO BALAGAT, Salapan, San Juan
TERENCE TAN, Green meadows, QC
FLORENTINO SUMERA, UP Diliman, QC
RODA S. CAMBIEL, Mandaluyong City
MAURO MARASIGAN, Makati City
REGIL GALACIO, Bel-Air Vill., Makati City
LEOPOLDO PACINIO, Makati Ave., Makati City
ROLLY TINGGA, Baliwag, Bulacan
MARIANO A. BINALA, JR, Sucat, Parañaque
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ART DELA LUNA, Malolos, Bulacan
ME ANNE TABUDLO, Meycauayan, Bulacan
REYNALDO VENTURA, Villamonte, Bacolod City
ROSEMARIE LOOQUIAO, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan
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MARITES VITUG, Lubao, Pampanga
MARILOU TAN, Guiguinto, Bulacan
ARTURO CABALES, Pteridel, Bulacan
AGNES VILLAR, Bacolod City
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PRIZE: THERMOS 1.4 LI. JUG

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PETSY RUGA, Pulanglupa, Las Piñas
PHILLEY C. ALONZO, Greenheights Vill., Pque
DENNIS CABUSLAY, Parang, Marikina
GERARDO PRITOS, Cubao, QC
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ISAAC LORETO, Horseshoe Vill., QC
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ROBARIO ORBON, Novaliches, Quezon City
MA. THEREBA QUINTO, Novaliches, Quezon City
JOSEPHINE M. SOMONGSONG, Novaliches, QC
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JOSEPH P. GAPPI, Pamplona, Las Piñas
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CARMEN R. CHAVEZ, San Pedro, Laguna
AILLEEN AMATA, Cervantes Comp., Pque
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REGINA MONTALBAN, Cinco Hermanos, Marikina
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MARICAR LU, Plaridel, Bulacan
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AGNES PANGILINAN, Mexico, Pampanga
TERESA RODRIGUEZ, Kalaklan, Olongapo City
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AMELITA LIBI, Mandaue, Cebu
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RYAN DATU, B-Bello Sampaloc, Manila
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GERADO TOLENTINO, San Jose, Batangas
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BETH MESA, San Jose, Occ. Mindoro
MARLON ANACLETO AGNO, Kalaklan, Olongapo City
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EMMANUEL RAMOS, Laoag City, Ilocos Sur
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AMMIEVA HINAMPAS, Tanauan, Batangas
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BONNY REYES, Macabebe, Pampanga
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CATHERINE GASPAR, Laoag City, Ilocos Sur
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0989, Series of 2001.

GMA urged to ditch Mike

(From page A1)

He particularly cited her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, who has been hounded by allegations of corruption.

"She has to address the real problem," added Enriquez, who served in the Cabinet of former President Fidel Ramos. "The problem is that it has not been distinguished yet whether it is just political destabilization or really a coup attempt."

But the President aired the assurance that "the government is not facing any coup," and assailed the media for reporting on the rumors.

At the Kapihan sa PIA yesterday in Davao City, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. told reporters that the President should be "more circumspect" in dealing with issues that tended to test her leadership.

Pimentel said that when on camera, a leader should be more civil, careful and subdued because a little expression of anger would be magnified.

"She should be a little more circumspect. As a leader, she should have a little restraint," he said, although he claimed understanding of the President's irritation as a result of pressures concerning her job.

Early on

At the pre-taped program simultaneously telecast 8-9 a.m. over the cable channel ANC and radio station dzMM, the President admitted that she had heard of the coup rumors when Palma asked about her meeting Thursday with Young Officers Union leaders Superintendents Rafael Cardeño and Diosdado Valeroso.

"Actually I knew about the rumors early on," she said in Taglish. "So it was not (on Thursday) that I found out the whole story from Cardeño and Valeroso."

She said that apart from the intelligence reports from the military and police, she had her "own sources" of information. "I feed this in turn to the intelligence community," she said.

But the President did not directly answer Palma's question of whether she was satisfied with Cardeño's denial of involvement in any coup plot.

She said her meeting with the YOU leaders should not be taken to mean that the rumors were true. It only showed that there is no *cordon sanitaire* in Malacañang and that she is willing to talk to anybody, she said.

Cardeño earlier said he had asked to meet with the President to personally give her his assurances after he was held in Camp Crame for more than 10 hours for questioning.

"First of all, there is no reason to be alarmed because whoever are those dreaming of launching a *coup d'etat* do not have the means and support," the President said. "These dreams are spreading rumors (that there will be a coup), but that's as far as these will get."

What has happened, she said, was that the country had become "one big rumor factory."

"We believe text messages," she complained.

The bribery allegations against the First Gentleman started from text messages.

No banners

The President once more urged the media, which she described as "the most influential institution" in the country today, to stop carrying stories based on rumors.

She specifically asked print and broadcast media not to run coup rumors as banner stories.

She was obviously referring to the INQUIRER, which ran reports on the so-called "Black October" and "Holy Brother" plots, and the TV networks that followed up on the issue.

Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, echoed the President's lament on the media.

Casiño said in a statement that the coup rumors appeared to benefit "everybody except the people."

"The opposition gains from the rumor because it makes the administration appear weak. The administration gains from it because it diverts public attention from its own shenanigans. And, of course, the so-called coup plotters get to wangle concessions from both sides," Casiño said.

"Even the media are interested in playing up the issue because it means brisker sales and higher ratings," he said.

Rotten banana

Pimentel said ousting presidents through extralegal means every so often was "foolishness" and would "make the Philippines look like a rotten banana."

He said that while he was part of the opposition, "I would hate to see the day when you topple the leadership."

He added: "We should discourage any coup attempt as a way of changing (the President)."

Pimentel criticized National Security Adviser Roilo Golez for saying that the supposed destabilization efforts were the handiwork of the opposition.

"I fully dispute the statement that we are part of the destabilization plan," he said, adding that destabilization involved an armed component while peaceful protest was an expression of the freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution.

"The words (destabilization and peace protests) have different meanings," Pimentel said. "If that is the way he is assessing the situation, then he should resign. He is adding dissension to the situation. Golez should be careful in his choice of words."

Pimentel's colleague in the opposition, Sen. Edgardo Angara, said Malacañang should close down its "rumor factory."

He said the President's own men were responsible for the coup rumors and were actually her real enemies.

"They are your enemies within," Angara said in a statement. "The country deserves something better than a rumor factory that has been concocting these wild stories about power grabs and destabilization."

He said the government should focus on the battered stock market, the country's bad image that had imperiled the tourism industry, and the dying export sector, among other things.

Only smoke

At Fort del Pilar in Baguio City, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. described the coup rumors as "smoke without a fire."

"There is no moral cause for anyone to stage a coup, unless it is personal," Guingona said. "But as far as the national course is concerned, there is no (valid reason for a coup) that I can see . . . This is smoke, but there is no fire, (and it was) started by people with a personal agenda."

Guingona, who represented the President as guest speaker at the Philippine Military Academy's 103rd Foundation Day, said the "strength of character" displayed by PMA graduates now at the forefront of the war in some parts of Mindanao was the reason she was ignoring the coup rumors.

Reading from her speech, Guingona said: "I have full trust and confidence in the loyalty of both the (military and police) . . . For the last time, I wish to tell the nation to disregard any rumor of any impending coup."

He said the coup rumors had nothing to do with the President's absence at the affair. "She has other commitments and has to do last-minute preparations" for her state visit to China, Guingona said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who as Armed Forces chief of staff withdrew the military's support from then President Joseph Estrada in January, guaranteed that there was no coup plot brewing.

"Listen to what I am saying. This is the most important message (I) will give you today. I guarantee there is no coup," Reyes said.

Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, Army commanding general, said there was no dissatisfaction among his ranks.

"I've been talking to my men regularly and I don't think we have a coup coming. But I still need to talk to someone who is talking of instability within the ranks," he said without elaborating.

Land Transportation Office chief Edgardo Abenina, one of the leaders of the rightwing Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa that plagued the Aquino administration with coup attempt, also downplayed the coup rumors.

"Based on my own experience, there's no coup if everybody is talking about it," Abenina said.

Besides, he said, there was no reason to launch a coup because the administration had been instituting reforms. ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Frank Cimatu, Vincent Cabreza and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Military on blue alert when GMA leaves for China

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

THE COUNTRY will be put on blue alert once President Macapagal-Arroyo leaves for a state visit to China this morning.

But according to military and police officials, this heightened state of alert is standard operating procedure. "It is SOP in security that the state of alertness is raised one notch higher (every time) the President leaves the country. This should be no cause for public alarm," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Hermogenes Ebdane, deputy director general of the Philippine National Police, immediately doused speculations that the blue alert level could have something to do with the coup jitters that Malacañang had been trying to quell.

"Blue alert is declared as a contingency measure," Ebdane said in Filipino. "That's automatic. It has happened before with other presidents. This administration should be no different."

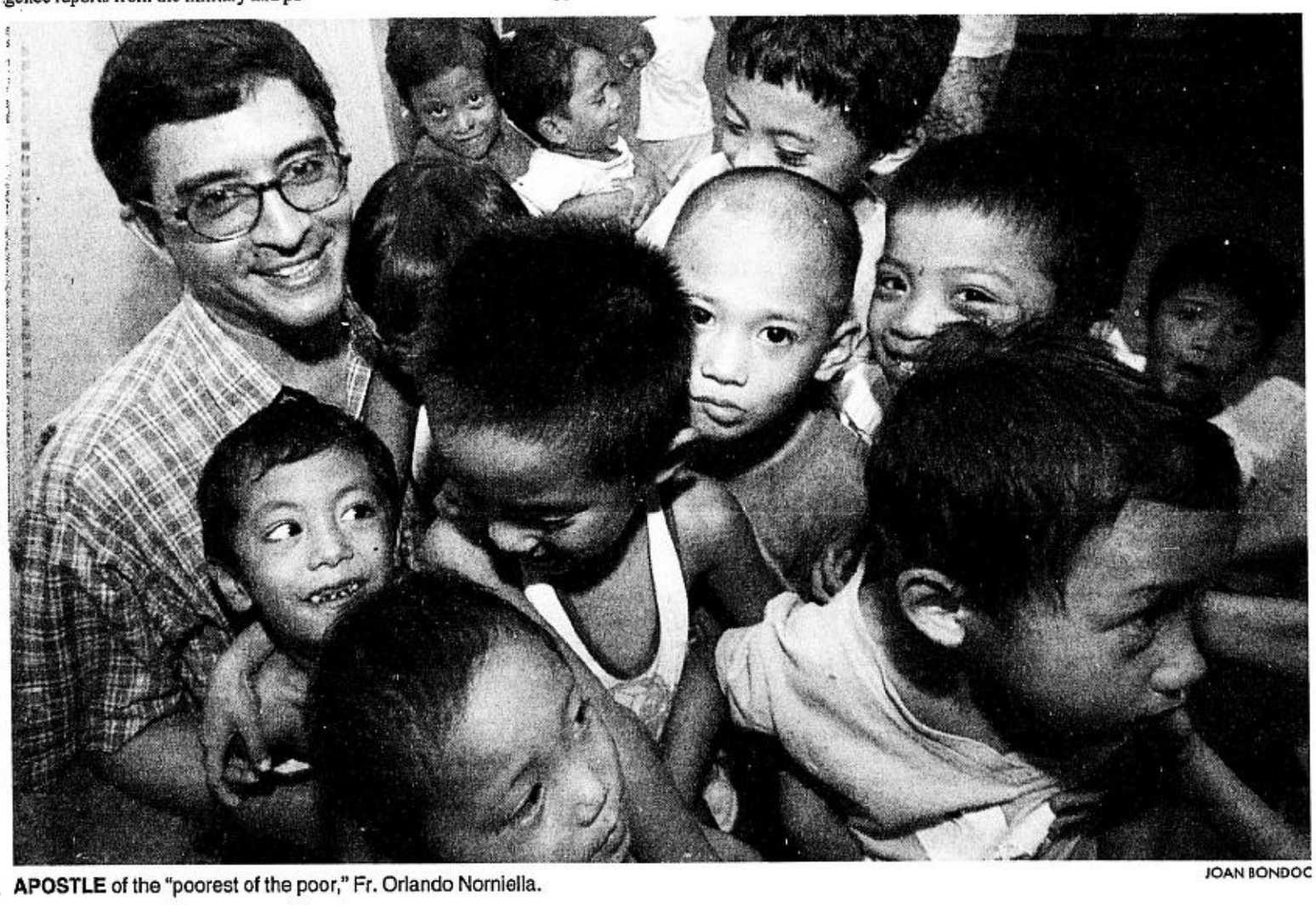
Thompson Lantion, PNP director for police community relations, explained that the country was normally in a state of white alert.

"This is when those in the camps are the personnel who are on duty, and who relieve each other in eight-hour shifts," Lantion said in a phone interview.

In a state of blue alert, 50 percent of the country's security forces are put on stand-by inside the camps nationwide, he said.

"In the case of red alert, all forces are on stand-by. And this is not the case right now because we see no threat. The focus remains on law enforcement duties and anti-crime programs," Lantion said, adding:

"In any eventuality such as rallies and demonstrations, we would be ready for those."



APOSTLE of the "poorest of the poor," Fr. Orlando Norniella. JOAN BONDOC

A priest's life in the dumps uplifts poor in Payatas

(From page A1)

Norniella, 42, heads the Mother of Divine Providence Parish on Evangelista Street in Barangay Payatas Phase A, his very first posting after his ordination 10 years ago as a member of the Sons of Divine Providence, an Italy-based religious order founded by Blessed Father Luigi Orione.

As instilled in every "Orionine," this native of Tucuman City, Argentina, defines his mission as one that stresses most of all "working for the poorest of the poor"—a seemingly never-ending task in a place like Payatas.

For the priest, the best way to help the poor is to enable them to help themselves, rather than have them feed on the palms of generosity.

Save perhaps for the free feeding program for kids, "we don't give anything for free here so that they (his poor parishioners) will learn how to be responsible. There is no dignity if they will just say '*Pahingi*, Father.'

"Why? Are they my slaves and I their king?" Norniella said.

That is why of all the parish projects, he is most proud of what is simply known there as its "Savings Program"—something close to a mini-cooperative.

Banker to the poor

Parishioners are grouped in 10s, then each group member deposits "P25 a week." After reaching an agreed amount, they decide to whom to extend small loans payable in six months with interest. The project started in 1998 with only 30 groups. It now involves 120 groups.

Norniella claims that the savings program, which now benefits about 1,500 families, has achieved a "95-percent" payback rate despite the fact that "we operate on sheer trust, without such rules like membership IDs or guarantees."

On his office shelf, he keeps among prayer books and religious articles a book titled "Banker to the Poor: Microfinancing and the Battle Against World Poverty." Written by Muhammad Yunus, a Muslim economist from Bangladesh, the book gave him both encouragement and practical lessons in running the savings program, he said.

Scholarships

The parish scholarship program, established in partnership with various schools, foundations, NGOs, and individual donors, currently counts 428 beneficiaries, around 20 in the college level.

For these scholars, Divine Providence also runs a library and computer center also in Payatas A, and three other learning centers (two in Payatas A and one in Payatas B) that hold preschool classes.

Last Oct. 7, Fr. Norniella's mission expanded to include cheap medical care with the opening of the St. Joseph Community Clinic in the Litex area, also in Payatas A.

At lunchtime Monday to Friday, the parish comes alive with the happy clutter of 20 to 30 Payatas children awaiting their free meals.

"We pick the most undernourished ones in the community, gather them here everyday until they achieve their ideal weight. Then they are replaced by another batch," he explained, as the children playfully cling to his legs.

Alas, he said, many of these children, after graduating from the feeding program in considerably improved health, end up "returning" because they easily lose the weight they had gained.

Indeed, Norniella conceded that his work could be that tiring and frustrating. At one point, it even got dangerous.

Night of terror

In the same room where Norniella now feeds the children, he and three other Orionines endured a night of terror in the hands of armed robbers, just slightly over a year after Norniella set foot in Payatas.

He was then with another priest and two seminarians when six to seven men, armed with pistols and knives, barged into what was then their office at around 11:30 p.m. of Nov. 22, 1995. The four of them were hog-tied, made to lie face down on the floor.

The suspects stripped them of their watches and the petty cash in their wallets. Knowing their victims were all foreigners, they almost tried to kill one of the seminarians, a Vietnamese, when he uttered something in Filipino.

"That was the worst moment of my life," said Norniella, recalling how one of the robbers poked a gun at his temple, and another pressed the tip of a knife in the middle of his chest.

He assumed that the suspects were "professionals" not from Payatas. After the ordeal, he said, "the residents, so many of them, came to us, saying 'sorry, father.' I think that's the most important."

From this close encounter with crime, Norniella also vividly recalls how he did a balancing act as a priest during a recent national political storm: the events leading to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin issued a pastoral letter calling on all Catholics nationwide to join peaceful mass actions demanding Estrada's resignation.

A copy of the letter landed in Norniella's hands. Knowing that his flock in Payatas is "100-percent pro-Erap," he hesitated to read it during Mass and called up Bishop Teodoro Bacani for advice.

Bacani's words, as Norniella remembered, were: "*Sige. tahimik ka lang muna d'yan.*" (Okay, keep quiet for now.)

The priest, while maintaining that he shared the Catholic Church's critical stand on Estrada, said he decided not to recite Sin's pastoral letter for "I know they would only get more and more angry at the Cardinal at the time. It was to protect the image of the Cardinal."

Politics after Mass

However, he went on to discuss the contents of the letter not during Mass but in a smaller, less formal meeting with his lay church leaders. "If it's about politics, let's talk about it outside the Mass." They all agreed to just hold a prayer rally "for peace" in the community at the time, he said.

For Father Norniella, such episodes—his first life-forming experiences as an apostle of Christ—had only strengthened his sense of mission to "stay with the poor."

Anti-Taliban leader, 5 commanders hanged

(From page A1)

Kabul and handed over to relatives. The bodies are expected to be brought to the Pakistani city of Peshawar on Sunday for burial.

2-day standoff

Taliban official Abdul Hanan Hemat said Abdul Haq and two of his associates were arrested after a two-day standoff in the eastern town of Azro despite attempts by US troops in helicopters to rescue him.

The Pentagon would not comment on whether it was involved in the fighting.

Abdul Haq was not a member of the main opposition military force, the Northern Alliance, which is dominated by Afghanistan's Uzbek and Tajik minorities.

But his role in the war against the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation made him a hero to Pashtuns, members of Afghanistan's largest ethnic group who form the bulk of Taliban forces.

Intelligence sources said he was a key figure in a plan to set up a multiethnic government to take over should the US campaign succeed in toppling the Taliban.

But Hamid Gul, the former chief of the Pakistan military's Inter-Services Intelligence, said that Abdul Haq's death was a sign that Pashtun leaders were not ready to desert the regime.

"The Taliban could not have arrested Haq without their support, it is not the Afghan tradition to capture a guest visiting tribal elders," he said.

"It proves the Taliban are fully backed by Pashtun tribes and anger against US attacks on Afghanistan has united the nation."

The United States has given tacit support to attempts to persuade "moderate" Taliban figures to defect, a plan favored by Pakistan. Russia and India have preferred to support the Northern Alliance.

Russia will supply the Afghan opposition Northern Alliance forces with 40 battle tanks and more than 100 armored vehicles over the next two months, the Interfax news agency reported Saturday.

Overnight raids

Overnight raids at Kabul claimed at least two civilian lives, said Dr. Mohammed Ullah, a physician at the hospital where the bodies were taken.

Ullah said shrapnel from bombing killed one man while a stray bullet struck the other victim he watched from a rooftop the red tracer flares of Taliban gunners taking aim at high-flying US jets.

Roving Taliban artillery guns, mounted on trucks, answered US blasts with bright bursts of anti-aircraft fire.

US bombs honed in on the Taliban's sprawling military compound in Kabul, just across from the long-abandoned US Embassy, with a giant American eagle still spread across its black steel gates.

Other bombs appeared to hit an ammunition depot on the city's eastern edge overnight, sparking off fiery bright-red explosions.

US jets returned at sunrise Saturday, pounding northern hills on the city's edge, toward Kabul's airport—a repeated target of attacks.

The Taliban's Bakhtar News Agency said six people were killed, 12 were injured and 15 houses were destroyed.

The Pentagon admitted US warplanes mistakenly dropped eight tons of bombs on Red Cross warehouses in Kabul—an embarrassing repeat of a similar error less than two weeks ago.

The Pentagon said the latest Red Cross bombings were apparently "due to a human error in the targeting process."

"The US sincerely regrets this inadvertent strike on the ICRC warehouses and the residential area," the Pentagon said in a statement.

Red Cross spokesperson Mario Musa said he could not understand how the US military's "precision" bombs could have accidentally hit the same warehouse complex in Kabul twice in two weeks. He rejected suggestions that Taliban fighters were also using the site.

The Red Cross protested the incident, saying "attacking or occupying facilities marked with the Red Cross emblem constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law."

Gradually eroding

US President George W. Bush said Friday that US air strikes were gradually eroding the Taliban's military strength and setting the stage for defeat of the shadowy al-Qaida terrorist network.

Bush spoke on the 20th day of air strikes aimed at bringing down the radical Islamic Taliban regime and rooting out the al-Qaida terrorists believed to be linked to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"We're slowly but surely dismantling Taliban defenses, Taliban military installations, the Taliban command and control structure—all aimed at bringing the al-Qaida criminals to justice," he said in a speech to business, trade and agricultural leaders at the White House.

Bush urged Americans to be patient as the US military, with support from Britain and other allies, carried out a carefully drawn strategy that combines air power with less visible special operations on the ground.

The British government announced it would commit 200 special forces to the offensive in Afghanistan, in addition to warships and planes.

Indicating that a long campaign was expected, Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram told Parliament that 200 commandos of the Royal Marines would be based on assault ships in the region while another 400 would be on standby in Britain.

Holy warriors

Thousands of Pakistanis in buses, trucks, pickups and vans, were also rolling out of a northeastern Pakistan village, bound for the Afghan frontier and vowing to fight a holy war against the United States.

Thousands of Pakistani men, young and old, had massed in Temergarah on Friday night with assault rifles, machine guns, even rocket launchers. A few even carried axes and swords.

Their mission, they said: to enter Afghanistan's Kunar province and help the country's ruling Taliban defend against any ground incursions by American troops.

"I am an old man. I consider myself lucky to go—and to face the death of a martyr," said Shah Wazir, 70, a retired Pakistani Army officer. He carried a French rifle from about 1920.

Organizers said similar-sized groups were massing in other towns across North West Frontier province, an enclave of ethnic Pashtuns with ties to—and deep feelings for—neighboring Afghanistan.

Volunteers gathered in scores of groups of 20, sitting on the ground to be briefed by military commanders—wearing black turbans and full beards similar to the Taliban militia—on the ways of jihad, or Islamic holy war.

"It is a difficult time for Islam and Muslims. We are in a test.

Everybody should be ready to pass the test—and to sacrifice our lives," said Mohammad Khaled, a brigade leader.

Hussain Khan, 19, a carpenter from the area, carried a Kalashnikov rifle and stood with his friend. He said he was leaving behind a fiancée and joining a just cause.

"Whether I come back alive or I am dead, I'll be fortunate because I am fighting in the service of Islam," Khan said. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

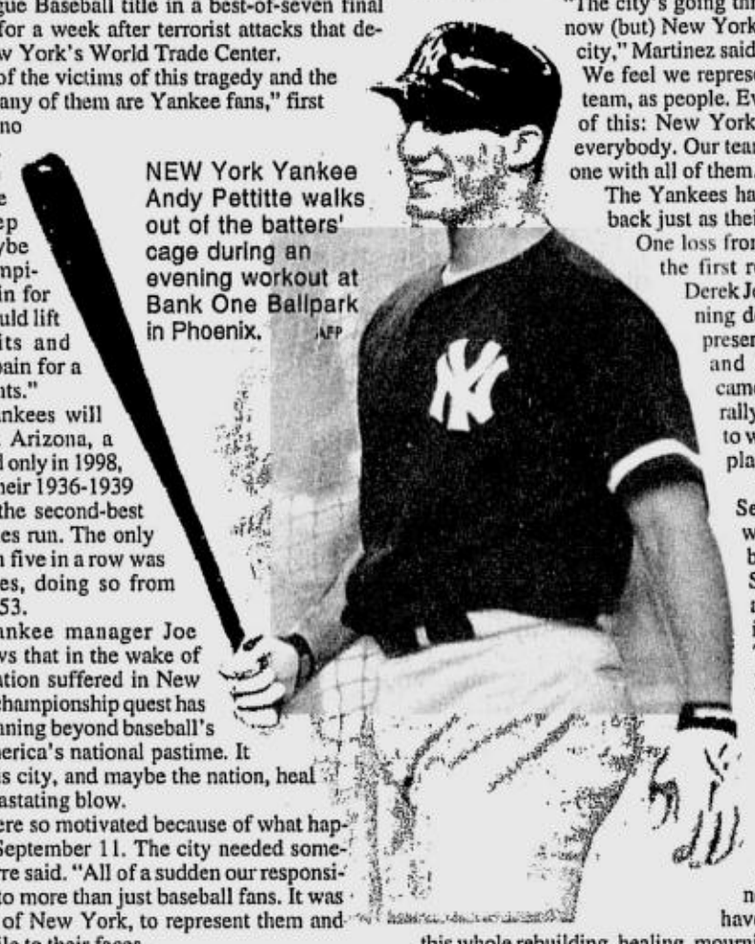
WORLD SERIES ON

Yankees draw strength from tragedy

PHOENIX, Arizona— Only upstart challenger Arizona stands between the New York Yankees and a fourth consecutive World Series title that would bring a measure of joy to a tragedy-stricken city.

The 97th World Series opens here Saturday (Sunday in Manila) with the Yankees seeking their 27th Major League Baseball title in a best-of-seven final postponed for a week after terrorist attacks that destroyed New York's World Trade Center.

"A lot of the victims of this tragedy and the families, many of them are Yankee fans," first baseman Tino Martinez said. "We felt if we could keep going, maybe win a championship again for them, it would lift their spirits and ease their pain for a few moments."



NEW York Yankee Andy Pettitte walks out of the batters' cage during an evening workout at Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix. AFP

The Yankees will try to beat Arizona, a club formed only in 1998, and equal their 1936-1939 edition in the second-best World Series run. The only team to win five in a row was the Yankees, doing so from 1949 to 1953.

But Yankee manager Joe Torre knows that in the wake of the devastation suffered in New York, this championship quest has greater meaning beyond baseball's role as America's national pastime. It can help his city, and maybe the nation, heal from a devastating blow.

"We were so motivated because of what happened on September 11. The city needed something," Torre said. "All of a sudden our responsibility was to more than just baseball fans. It was to the city of New York, to represent them and bring a smile to their faces.

"I don't know if it will ever be the same. But we're working like hell to try to give them a little rest from the weariness they've experienced."

Extra security measures, including fighter jet patrols and a no-fly zone over stadiums, are set for the games. FBI agents and triple the usual police contingent will be on hand at games one and two here this weekend.

If the Yankees beat Arizona, New York mayor Rudy Guliani has promised a traditional tickertape victory parade on skyscraper-lined streets dubbed the Canyon of Heroes where millions have gathered to celebrate past glory.

Last year's parade attracted 3.6 million people after the Yankees beat the crosstown rival Mets in the "Subway Series".

"They are looking for something to cheer about," Yankee relief pitcher Mike Stanton said. "We've given them a little something. Hopefully we've helped get their minds off world events, at least for a few minutes. That's our job. As much as we would like to claim different, we're entertainers."

The Yankees are a team either beloved or despised by US baseball fans for a legacy of success. But given what New York has suffered, fans who once might have backed the Series debutante Diamondbacks now like the Yankees, at least for this year.

"The city's going through a lot right now (but) New York City is a tough city," Martinez said. "People battle. We feel we represent the city as a team, as people. Everyone is a part of this: New York City, the fans, everybody. Our team is trying to be one with all of them."

The Yankees have had to battle back just as their city has done. One loss from elimination in the first round, shortstop Derek Jeter made a stunning defensive play to preserve a 1-0 triumph and New York became the first team to rally from two losses to win a best-of-five playoff.

Next came the Seattle Mariners, with major league batting king Ichiro Suzuki of Japan and a record-tying 116 victories. The Yankees dispatched the winningest club in American League history in five games.

"We have taken our lead from the inspiration and toughness New Yorkers have shown through this whole rebuilding, healing, mourning, suffering and just fighting back attitude," Torre said.

But National League champion Arizona will be no easy pushover. The Diamondbacks feature ace pitchers Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling leading a lineup of 30-something veterans hungry for a crown.

Right-hander Schilling, 34, went 22-6 and struck out 293 batters and will start game one. Southpaw Johnson, the 38-year-old lanky "Big Unit", went 21-6 and struck out 372 batters. He gets the call in game two Sunday.

The Yankees will counter with standouts Mike Mussina and Andy Pettitte on the mound, then go to veterans Roger Clemens and Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez when the Series shifts to New York for up to three games.

Arizona, powered by the 57 home runs from 34-year-old Luis Gonzalez, also features Mark Grace, a 37-year-old veteran of 13 seasons with the lowly Chicago Cubs, and 42-year-old journeyman relief pitcher Mike Morgan, now on his 12th major league roster. *AFP*

Lagon Ucap's best

AFTER a respectable runner-up finish in the 7th UCAP/ Bacolod Group 7 - Stag Derby last Thursday at the Mandaluyong Coliseum, youthful engineer Sonny Lagon of San Pablo City emerged as United Cockers Association of the Philippines' (Ucap) Stagfighter of the Year 2001.

Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo sponsored the event.

Lagon, who fielded the reliable Yellow Legged Hatch and Sweater Hatch lines, amassed a grand total of 30 points in seven Ucap stagfests.

Mayor Claudy Bautista and Boyboy Roa (CPB PBRJ I) were first runner finishers with 29.5 points followed by businessman-sportsman Vic Yu (Sir Vincent) with 29 points.

Mandaluyong Coliseum, now recognized by big-time cockers for its "bayad-agad" format on center bets immediately after every fight, will also present the "LGBA Group 6-Stag Derby" series on the following dates: Nov. 6 and 8 (eliminations); Nov. 13 and 15 (semifinals) and Nov. 20 and 22 (championship).

LGBA interim president Boy Diaz said that their group chose Mandaluyong Coliseum as their official venue because of its strict adherence to fairness and sportsmanship in conducting derbies.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASEBALL: MLB – NY Yankees vs Arizona Diamondbacks, Game 1 at 7:30 a.m. on ESPN

BILLIARDS: 2001 International Challenge of Champions, Semifinal #2 at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour – Thailand, Men's Highlights at 6 p.m. on ESPN

RP karting slated

THE Philippines Karting Prix resumes with yet another series on Dec. 27-29 at the Luneta Grandstand.

Greg L. Gutierrez, vice chair and president of Presidential Cup 2001, said among those invited to grace the affair are Sec. Dick Gordon of the Department of Tourism, ambassador Boy Señeres of the Department of Labor, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Gen. Ed Aglipay and Gen. Reynaldo Wycoco.

GUTIERREZ

Trophies donated by President Gloria Macapagl-Arroyo will be given to the winners.

A special race is also being readied for all the "Anak ng Masa" paraticipants.

Fore more details, call 635-2915, 724-8864 (Fred), 4212858 (Angelica).

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Nov. 13, 2001 (Tuesday)
EFFECTIVE INFLUENCING SKILLS
Alan Barker, Regional Director for Asia Pacific, Strategic Consulting Services Inc. and Director, IMPACT Consultancy Group (SCS Philippine partner), will discuss the importance of influencing skills in leadership and identify the underlying motive, thought patterns and competencies needed in the skillful use of influence. He will illustrate how one can acquire these competencies and supporting skills for more effective leadership.

Nov. 14, 2001 (Wednesday)
EFFECTIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION TECHNIQUES
Josie Santamaria, President, Career Systems, Inc., will talk about the nature of conflict and attitudes and behaviors of people in conflict, identify the best way to manage conflict, outline the steps in conflict resolution, and teach you how to apply these techniques in your particular situation.

Nov. 15, 2001 (Thursday)
MANAGING RISKS IN LIFE AND AT WORK
David Jacob, President, Marsh Philippines, which provides risk management services, will talk about the kinds of risks facing companies and people at work, the values and attitudes towards risks, and the ways companies and individuals can lessen the risks and its consequences and prepare for worst case scenarios.

All sessions will be conducted from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCIB Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila. Tickets are available at P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (orchestra patron). Early bird discount of 10% shall be given to the first 100 registrants per seminar. Registration fee includes handouts and certificate of completion. Snacks will NOT be served because eating in the auditorium is prohibited.

Register at the following Inquirer Classified Ads branches: Main-Pasong Tamo, Makati City, 897-8808/ 897-2535; G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City 811-4361/ 811-4370/ 811-4012; St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd, Quezon City 421-1420/421-0343; SM Megamall,Mandaluyong City 635-0219/ 637-2008; G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila 527-3342/ 528-0183/ 527-6357 *or at the* OPTIMUS MANAGERS AND ADVISORS,INC. *office* at the 2nd floor, Benjamin I Bldg., 62 Sgt. Esguerra St. cor. Mo. Ignacia Ave., South Triangle, Quezon City 414-0186, 414-0587.

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Changes mark NBA's new season

JORDAN

WASHINGTON—Change is the buzzword this season in the National Basketball Association, with familiar faces in new places, one team in a new home and zone defenses ready to challenge NBA scoring stars.

Michael Jordan is back after three years of retirement, returning at age 38 with the lowly Washington Wizards rather than Chicago. He figures to be more of an outside threat than in his younger, more aerodynamic days.

Two-time NBA champion Hakeem Olajuwon left Houston for Toronto, where Vince Carter and long-term player deals make the Raptors a title contender. And ex-New York star Patrick Ewing is a starter in Orlando, where the Magic also feature Tracy McGrady, Grant Hill and key rebounder Horace Grant.

"I don't think there's anything we can do about all these changes. But it seems weird," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "It just seems surreal in a way."

When the NBA season begins Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), reality will hit home. Jordan will make his much-heralded return at New York while the Los Angeles Lakers begin their quest for a third consecutive title against rival Portland.

Toronto will open at Orlando in a matchup of two Eastern Conference favorites with new centers while the Philadelphia 76ers, last year's NBA runner-up led by scoring champion Allen Iverson, travel to Minnesota..

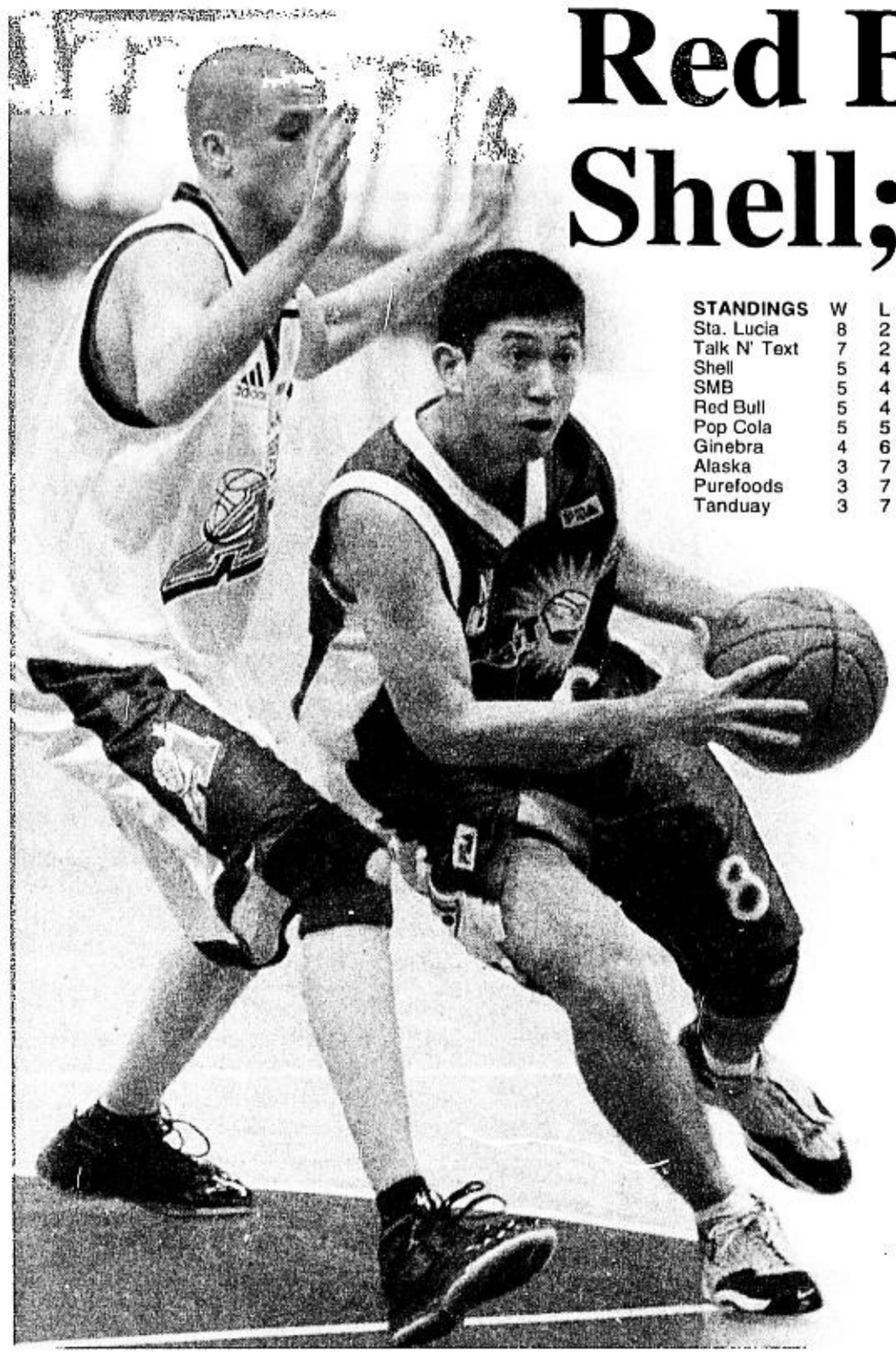
And the NBA will make its regular-season debut Thursday in Memphis, the new home of the former Vancouver franchise. The Grizzlies made Spaniard Pau Gasol the highest non-US draft pick ever at third. But moving from the NBA cellar will be tougher than relocating to a new home.

Wizards lose

Meanwhile, Jordan scored 21 points in his last preseason tuneup, but Antoine Walker had 32 to lead the Boston Celtics to a 107-93 victory over Washington.

The Wizards finished the exhibition season 2-6 Friday despite an average of 22.3 points from Jordan. *AP*

Red Bull tackles Shell; Gin vs Pop



STA. LUCIA hotshot Paolo Mendoza (right) slips past John Arigo of Alaska in the PBA Governors Cup last Friday at the Philsports Arena. The Realtors escaped with a 100-99 victory in overtime, assuring themselves of the twice-to-beat privilege in the quarterfinals. ROMY HOMILLADA

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	8	2
Talk N' Text	7	2
Shell	5	4
SMB	5	4
Red Bull	5	4
Pop Cola	5	5
Ginebra	4	6
Alaska	3	7
Purefoods	3	7
Tanduay	3	7

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—Ginebra vs Pop Cola
6:10 p.m.—Shell vs Red Bull

BY DENNIS U. EROA

RED BULL, back to its old, deadly ways, continues its awesome climb when it part ways with Shell Turbocharger as the PBA Governors Cup eliminations heat up tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

Armed with a three-game winning streak, Ray Tutt and company will again lean on their towering frontline and a new found weapon: Big defensive stops during crunchtime.

"Defense keyed our past victories. I'm trying to inject consistency in our games," said Red Bull mentor Yeng Guiao. Still euphoric after bagging the Commissioner's Cup, the Thunder started shakily this conference with a 2-4 record, but with Tutt hitting the big shots, things are back to normal in the Red Bull camp.

"Ray has been stepping up for us," said Guiao. Red Bull is trying to make the magic four and the twice-to-beat privilege that goes with it.

Pacesetter Sta. Lucia Realty (8-2) has already snared a twice-to-beat privilege.

The Red Bull-Shell match is set at 6:10 p.m. The curtain-raiser pits Ginebra against Pop Cola. The importless Kings got bamboozled by the Thunder, 93-72, last Wednesday.

With Valenzuela hitting 17 points, the Thunder downed the Turbochargers, 68-62, on Oct. 14 at the Ynares Center in Antipolo. The win injected life to Red Bull's wobbly campaign.

At 5-5, the Panthers are also in the thick of the fight for a place in the top four. Roselle Ellis, who hit the marginal shots in Pop's 85-84 squeaker over Purefoods, will again banner the Panthers' attack.

Davonn Harp, virtually unstoppable with his ugly but effective one-handed shots, and Mick Pennisi will help Tutt in ruling the boards. Jimwell Torion, Junthy Valenzuela, Lordy Tugade, Willie Miller and Ato Agustin will also star for the Thunder.

Shell, which is tied with Red Bull at 5-4, is trying to come back after bowing to Tanduay, 81-78. Mark Telan, Chris Jackson and Askia Jones face the tall order of containing the towering Red Bull frontline.

Dale Singson and veteran Gerard Esplana will tend Shell's backcourt.

Lakers eyeing '3-peat'

WASHINGTON—The supporting cast has been revamped but the main actors are in place for a feat even Hollywood has never seen before — a championship "Three-peat" for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Shaquille O'Neal, the NBA's most dominant center, has the starring role. Averaging 28.7 points and 12.7 rebounds, "Shaq" has overpowering size with exceptional speed and quickness.

Kobe Bryant, whose difficulty accepting a supporting role led to team dissension, averaged 28.5 points and five assists. Once the playmaker found his place, the Lakers rambled through the playoffs with only one loss. *AFP*

Zone defense rule sparks concern

WASHINGTON—Zone defenses are about to make playing in the National Basketball Association a whole new ball game.

The once-illegal zone defense is now allowed for all NBA games, making life tougher on top NBA scorers such as Allen Iverson, who might have to fight through double teams only to find a giant barring his way.

"It's going to take a lot of creativity from the game," Iverson warned. "Four or five guys are going to be sitting there waiting for me. The game will turn into a bunch of guys shooting jump shots. You can't tell me that's what fans want to see."

What fans are likely to see are top players being forced to pass more often, utilizing teammates and being rewarded for unselfish moves by making foes pay for double-teaming.

Laguna seeks repeat over N. Ecija

Second Phase Standings		
Northern Conference	W	L
LBC Batangas	9	1
Andok's San Juan	7	2
FedEx Laguna	5	3
Nueva Ecija	2	6
Southern Conference		
Negros	7	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	4	6
Socsargen-Taguig	3	10
TPG Davao	1	8

GAMES TODAY
Araullo Gym, Cabanatuan
3 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs Nueva Ecija
RMC Gym, Davao
5:30 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuillier vs TPG Davao

THE FIRST time they met, FedEx Laguna routed Nueva Ecija by 43 points (109-66) in the MBA Second Phase.

It's unlikely that the Lakers could match that margin, but just the same they are the prohibitive favorite in their 3 p.m. encounter with the Patriots at the Araullo Gym.

Fil-Ams Jeffrey Flowers and Chris Clay will be at the helm of the Lakers who are on a three-game roll and are hogging third place in the Northern Conference with a 5-win, 3-loss mark.

In contrast, the Patriots are on a six-game skid after taking their first two games and badly need a win to stay in semifinals contention.

For another, the Lakers are fresh from an eight-day respite and with local standouts Biboy Simon and Richard Melencio doing their share should have little trouble beating the Patriots at their homecourt.

TPG Davao, the pressure of breaking into the win column gone, tangles with erratic Cebuana Lhuillier at 5:30 p.m. at the RMC Gym.

The Eagles finally notched their first triumph after eight straight defeats at the expense of the Socsargen-Taguig Marlins, 89-77, on Friday and are deemed capable of upstaging the Gems, who are struggling this conference at 4-6.

Fact is, the Gems barely beat the Eagles, 89-86, in their first meeting on Sunday.

Despite their poor showing, however, the Gems have bright chances of making the next round as they are at second place in the Southern Conference, trailing the Negros Slashers (7-2).

LBC Batangas paces the Northern Conference at 9-1 following a 103-100 conquest of Andok's San Juan in Lipa City on Friday night.

MBA games are being telecast live over National Broadcasting Network 4 on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. *Roy Luarca*

Clijsters halts Kournikova

LUXEMBOURG—Anna Kournikova's comeback from injury ended Friday as top-seeded Kim Clijsters of Belgium beat the Russian 7-5, 7-6 (2) in the quarterfinals of the $170,000 SEAT Open.

Before this week, Kournikova had lost all five of her matches since coming back from a stress fracture of the left foot, which had kept her out for most of the season.

Clijsters, the Belgian world No. 5, will face another former winner of this tournament in Saturday's semifinal, third-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, who outlasted Kveta Hrdlickova of the Czech Republic 3-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3).

In Linz, Austria, defending champion Lindsay Davenport of the United States beat Sandrine Testaud of France 6-1, 7-6 (7) to move to the semifinals of the $565,000 Generali Ladies WTA tournament Thursday.

Also advancing were Jelena Dokic, the No. 3 seed, and Iroda Tulyaganova. Dokic, of Yugoslavia, defeated Alexandra Stevenson of the United States 6-3, 7-5, in a hard-fought match that saw the American getting stronger toward the end of play. Tulyaganova, an up and comer from Uzbekistan, posted an easy 6-2, 6-4 victory over Russia's Tatyana Panova.

In Basel, Switzerland, Britain's Tim Henman thrashed Swiss hopeful Michel Kratochvil 6-0, 6-1 Friday to advance to the semifinals of the dlrs 1 million Swiss Indoors tournament. *AP*

Jolet rules national bike championships

ROSARIO, Batangas—Defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-YRS Racing Team added another milestone to his long and colorful career, winning the overall title in the National Super Bike Championships 2001 at the Batangas Racing Circuit here recently.

Flaunting anew the power of his Yamaha R6, Jao swept the season-ending races in the centerpiece expert open category to capture the overall championship in the country's premier motorcycle event for the fourth time in five years.

Jao, the only rider in local history to win the overall titles in motocross, scooter and road racing, also bagged the crown in the inaugural staging of the event in 1997, repeated in 1998 and did it again last year.

"*Masayang-masaya ako. Iniaalay ko ang panalong ito sa lahat ng mga taong patuloy na sumusuporta sa akin, lalong lalo na sa aking pamilya at mga tagapagtaguyod*," added Jao, who dominated all but two of nine races held in the rain-shortened annual series organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) and presented by Shell, Norkis-Yamaha, Kilton Motors, MOF Company, Marlboro and Toyota.

"Of course, I would not have achieved the feat without Shell's race-track tested motorcycle oils and Yamaha's superior racing technology," added the 35-year-old campaigner from Marikina who finished with 215 points.

A far second in the overall standings was Toti Alberto with 153 points, followed by Rey Relativo with 77 points. Jao also beat Alberto by a record 71 points last year.

Shell Advance-YRS team manager Gregorio "Yoyong" Buncio lauded Jao's talent, determination and work ethics as "among the major reasons for another successful campaign this year."

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Impeachment 2. Disco Dancer 3. Secret Currency 4. Companero
Race 2—1. Rain Check/Brilliant Leader 2. Star of Arabia 3. Double Header 4. Always on D Go
Race 3—1. Free Entrance 2. Ultimate Prize 3. Anahaw 4. Fortius
Race 4—1. Walang Hanggan/Redding Drive 3. Silver Print
Race 5—1. La Signorina 2. Diana 3. Boogie Shoes 4. Hurry Love 5. Speed Charm
Race 6—1. Master Ijhay 2. Legend of Gaia
Race 7—1. Gold Honors 2. Ladies Night 3. Race for Gold 4. Dragon Doding 5. Sure to Glow
Race 8—1. Regimental Lass 2. West Pointer 3. Perfect Storm
Race 9—1. Yoko Lady 2. Premiere Event 3. Touch of Jax 4. Ananpour
Race 10—1. May's Magic 2. Southern Skies 3. Bull Strike 4. Harvesting Game 5. Enseguida 6. El Bulldog/Hercules
Race 11—1. Courage 2. High and Mighty 3. Morning Nell 4. Pistol Red
Race 12—1. Free Magic 2. Bardagul 3. Hearts on Fire 4. Photogenic 5. Magnicolo
Race 13—1. Golden Tale 2. Flash Back 3. Golden Prince 4. Power and Might
Race 14—1. Earth Angel 2. Knows Love 3. Search for Gold 4. Nagniningning 5. Acalanes 6. Steel

Barcial resumes scooter campaign

EXPECT another battle royale in today's fifth leg of the Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships 2001 at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite.

Three-time champion Jaime Barcial and fourth-leg winner Gilbert Maningas resume their campaign in the expert open category in this prestigious seven-part series organized by the E. L. Racing Tech in cooperation with Shell Advance.

Barcial dominated the first three legs, but Maningas topped the fourth leg to keep his hopes alive in this premier scooter competition in the country.

Also worth watching is multi-titled Jolet Jao, who will make his first appearance since his highly successful title-retention campaign in the National Super Bike Championships in Rosario, Batangas recently. Aside from Maningas and Jao, the other notable riders in the expert open class are Mark Chua and Randy Ortiz.

Upcoming R.B. Santos will also try to duplicate his smashing performance in the previous leg last Oct. 7 and boost his chances in the Yamaha-sponsored 50cc category.

The 16-year-old campaigner from Malabon, who honed his skills under the close supervision of Jao, defeated his more-experienced rivals such as Robert Altea, Hermie Andrea and Eric Ramos.

He also finished a close second to Ivan Santiago in the 50cc multi-brand class.

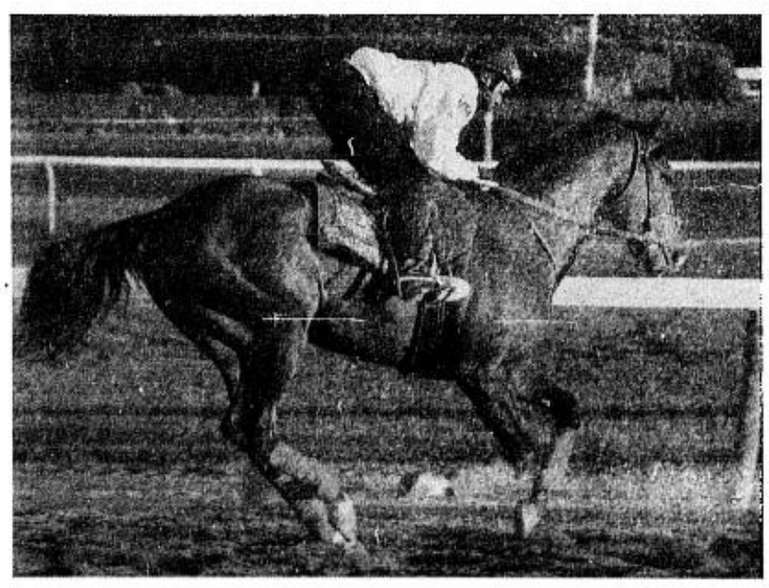
The other riders to watch are:

90 cc—Sonny Villarama, Lucky Loya, Winston Flores, Chua and Maningas.

70cc—Villarama, Ortiz, Loya, Mark Anthony Barcial and Keith Garcia.,

Honda 50cc—Gerry Quinones, Cesar Apo, Edwin Obrera, Lloyd Alejandro and Alex de Ocampo.

Yamaha Force 1—Chito Barcenas, Edwin Mauricio, Geofrey Aguisanda, Benjamin Dolores and Richie Flores. For details, call E.L. Racing Tech at tel. 660-2071 .


JUVENILE entry It'sallinthechase works out at Belmont Park. AP

BREEDERS' CUP

Sakhee, Aptitude, Galileo seek glory

NEW YORK—Sakhee will try to become Horse of the World. Trainer Bobby Frankel wants Aptitude to earn an Eclipse Award as Horse of the Year in North America. Galileo could lay claim to being the best 3-year-old on both sides of the Atlantic.

Just a sampling of the story lines for the eight-race Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships on Saturday (Sunday in Manila) at Belmont Park.

Tiznow (Classic), Macho Uno (Classic), Kona Gold (Sprint) and Spain (Distaff) each will try for a second Breeders' Cup victory, something accomplished by only four horses.

Trainer Bob Baffert can wonder what might have been if Point Given, a cinch for an Eclipse Award as champion 3-year-old, would have been able to compete against Sakhee, Aptitude and Galileo in the Classic. A loss by Aptitude would assure Point Given of Horse of the Year.

Point Given vs. Galileo was much anticipated until Point Given was retired in August because of a tendon injury after winning four straight $1 million stakes races.

"You've got to enjoy them while you have them and not look back," Baffert said.

Officer has Baffert looking ahead.

Unbeaten in five races, Officer, owned by Prince Ahmed Salman of Saudi Arabia, is favored to win the 1 1-16-mile Juvenile. That would clinch the 2-year-old championship and give Officer the favorite's role for the Kentucky Derby.

Sakhee was expected to be entered in the 1-1/2-mile Turf, but instead was put into the 1-1/4-mile Classic. He could polish his credentials by adding a victory in one of the world's top dirt races to that in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, one of the most prestigious grass events.

Unbeaten in three starts, Sakhee, owned the Godolphin Racing stable of the Maktoum family of Dubai, will be making his debut on the dirt.

While Sakhee would have been favored in the Turf, he is only the fourth betting choice in the Classic.

The Classic favorite is Aptitude, winner of three straight stakes, among them a 10-length score in the 1-1/4-mile Jockey Club on Oct. 6 at Belmont.

Tight security

ALBANY, New York—No coolers will be allowed in New York's Belmont Park for the Breeders' Cup as part of heightened security measures in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

Fans also will not be allowed to bring umbrellas into the track Saturday, and their bags and backpacks will be searched. *AP*

It's a boy for Agassi, Graf

BERLIN—Former German tennis champion Steffi Graf, who married US tennis pro Andre Agassi on Oct. 22, gave birth to a baby boy in Las Vegas on Friday, Bild tabloid reported Saturday. The baby, whose name was not known, was born three weeks prematurely in a private clinic in the American gambling capital. He weighed 2.6 kilograms. *AFP*

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▩ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Davao marathon today

DAVAO CITY—Twelve local companies will dispute the first ever Adidas Inter-Company Marathon relays today at 6 a.m. from Calinan District Hall to the Monteverde sports complex here. The rare running event is sponsored by Adidas Philippines, and organized by Pamana Xi and the Davao City Sports Council Inc.

BAP okays pro squad to Asiad

THE BALL is now in the PBA's hands. It's been given the go-signal to form the national team to next year's Pusan Asian Games.

Noting the lesser trouble an all-PBA team would pose and the depth of talent available, the Basketball Association of the Philippines national board yesterday agreed to let the league represent the country in the quadrennial meet once again.

LINA

"The most important question has now been answered, and that is we are allowing the PBA to form our Asiad team. We'll just talk about the details. We will submit our counter-proposal to them (PBA officials) on Monday, said BAP president Tiny Literal, who presided over the five-hour board meeting with chair and Isabela Rep. Antonio Abaya.

"We took into consideration the immensity of the task at hand and the least trouble-free way to achieve it. If we are going to insist on a mixed team from the PBA and the MBA it might just pose problem in the end because both leagues have their own schedules to follow," said Abaya. "It's hard for a mixed team to be together consistently."

The national board also gave Literal, lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan, the executive vice president, and secretary general Graham Lim blanket authority to negotiate with the PBA regarding its proposals.

Commissioner Jun Bernardino had earlier expressed the league's readiness to carry the country's colors, citing the need for longer preparation.

Lim said he is certain the PBA would be able to come up with a highly competitive team considering its resources and pool of players.

The PBA has represented the country thrice in the Asiad, placing second in the 1990 Beijing edition, fourth in 1994 in Hiroshima and third in1998 in Bangkok.

At the same time, Lim thanked the MBA for its willingness to lend its players to the national cause.

MBA director for marketing and business development Mon Tuason welcomed the BAP decision saying: "This development is good for Philippine basketball. We wish the PBA all the best in this undertaking."

During the board meeting, Bert Lina, owner of the FedEx Laguna Lakers, was elected vice president for Luzon. Lina replaced Jaime Dichavez. Sacked as regional directors were NCR's Emmanuel Perez de Tagle and Region VI's Dodong Bascon, whose post will be temporarily taken over by Emmanuel Yap. Raffy Angeles took over the post left by his father Antonio, who died recently. Others given positions were Julian Lavadia as deputy secretary general and Daniel Lopez as administrative officer.

The board also awarded to Ormoc City the hosting of next year's National Students Basketball Championship.

Roy Luarca

Mabuhay golf tourney gets underway Nov. 9

TWO brand-new, high-end vehicles—an Audi A4 1.8 automatic and a Toyota RAV 4—are at stake for a hole-in-one when the prize-rich 9th Mabuhay Club Invitational golf tournament tees off Nov. 9 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

The German-made luxury sedan donated by Auto Prominence Corp., exclusive Philippine distributor of Audi, will be awarded to the player who cards an ace on the 17th hole of either the Faldo or Aoki course where the competition will be held.

On the other hand, the stylish RAV 4 sports coupe supplied by Toyota Motor Philippines will be staked for an ace on the 3rd hole of the Faldo course or the 7th hole of the Aoki layout.

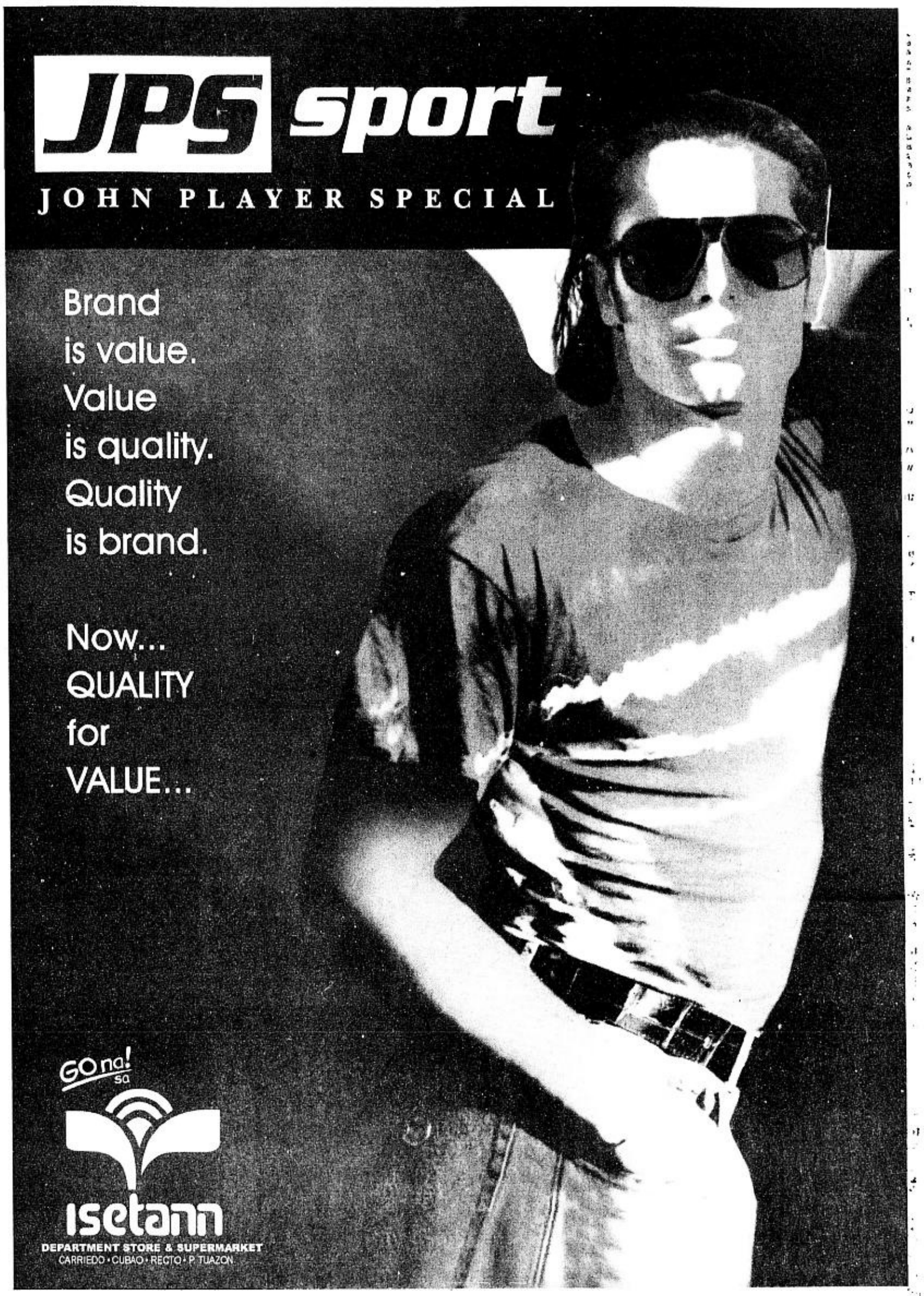
A round-trip Philippine Airlines ticket to Los Angeles on first class will be awarded to any golfer who scores a hole-in-one in the other par 3 holes of both layouts.

Other prizes up for grabs include round-trip tickets on business class to such PAL destinations as Vancouver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu, Sydney, Tokyo, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Organized by PAL, the 9th Mabuhay Club golfest is supported by major sponsor Airbus Industrie; corporate sponsors AAR Corp., Boeing Co., DHL Philippines, Equitable Card Network, IBM and Samsonite/Allen Edmonds; and minor sponsors Asia Brewery, Boysen Paint, Mandarin Oriental Hotel and OAG.

Century Park Hotel is the official hotel, Malayan Insurance the official insurer and Annset Holidays the exclusive provider of transport services for the tournament.

Over 200 participants from the top echelons of business and industry—the biggest field yet in the history of this event—are entered in the one-day tournament.



Gaddi-Garcia duo sparkles

THE TANDEM of lawyer-member Ed Gaddi and his guest partner Frankie Garcia banked on a strong first day effort to clinch the overall team title in the Globe Telecoms-sponsored Alabang Senior Golfers Association (Asga) Cup at the Alabang Country Club course recently.

Gaddi and Garcia tallied 88 points in the first round then followed it up with an 83 for a 36-hole aggregate of 171, winning by four points over Bert Limjuco and Jun Peralta with the favored pair of Freddie Oliveros-Danny Pizarro (166) claiming third place.

Peralta went home with the overall individual net title with the overall individual gross going to former national seniors champion Alex Montelibano.

Sponsorships provided by Fortune Tobacco, Asga member Haji Tabusalla of Indonesia, Hans Brumann of Brumann Jewellers, Volvo Cars, Nestle Philippines, Weinstein Pianos and Sharexchange enabled organizers to give away a prize package of more than P600,000 for the field of 144 players or 72 teams.

Asga president Pompeyo Nolasco and tournament chair Joe Ong awarded the prizes to the winners.

The organizers of the Asga Cup are Ben Narciso, Ed Gaddi, Romy Laig, Bobby Hilado, Jun Pambid, Pol Medina and ACCI directors Joey Laurel and Jun Galindez.

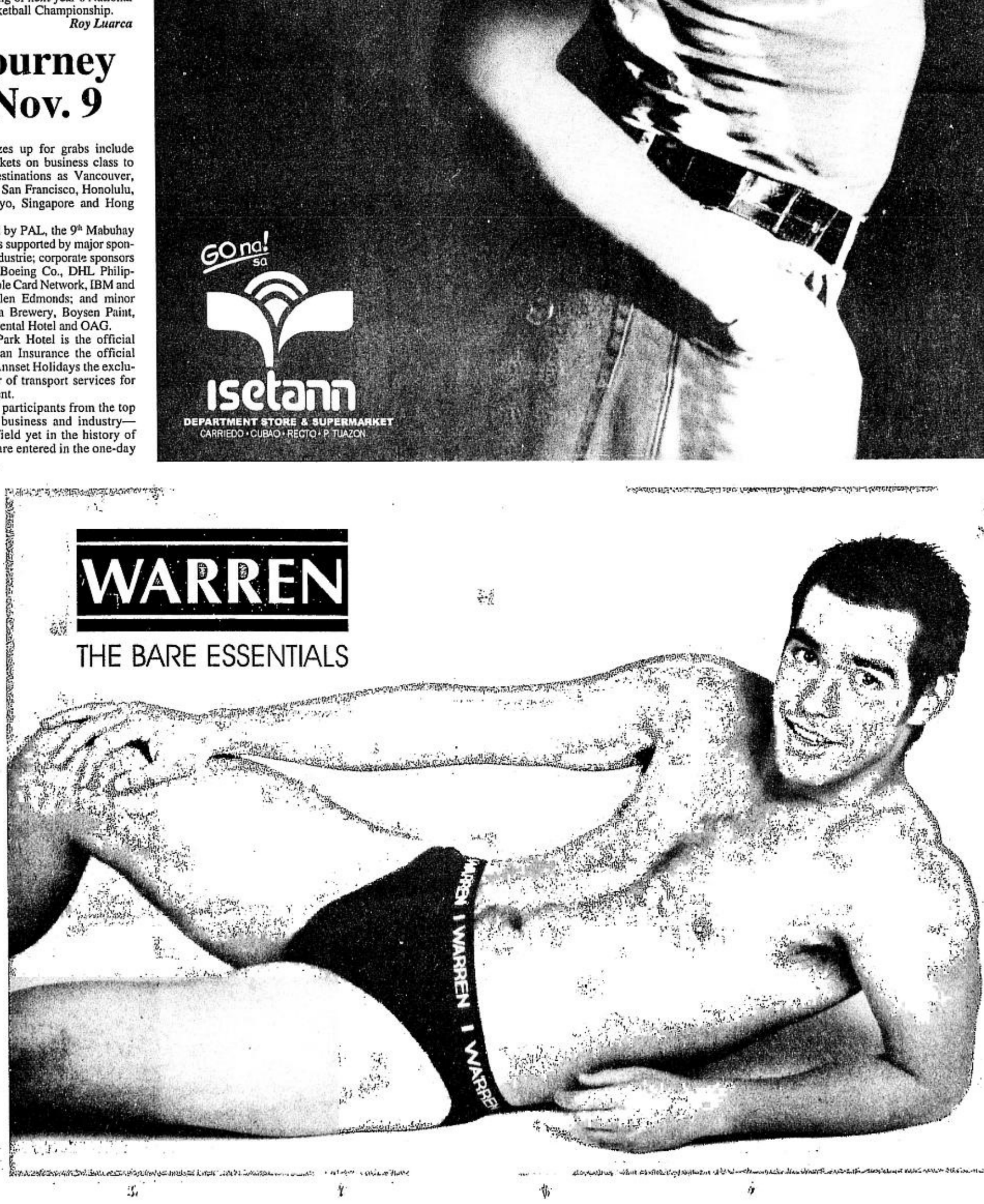
Soldiers cheer Love

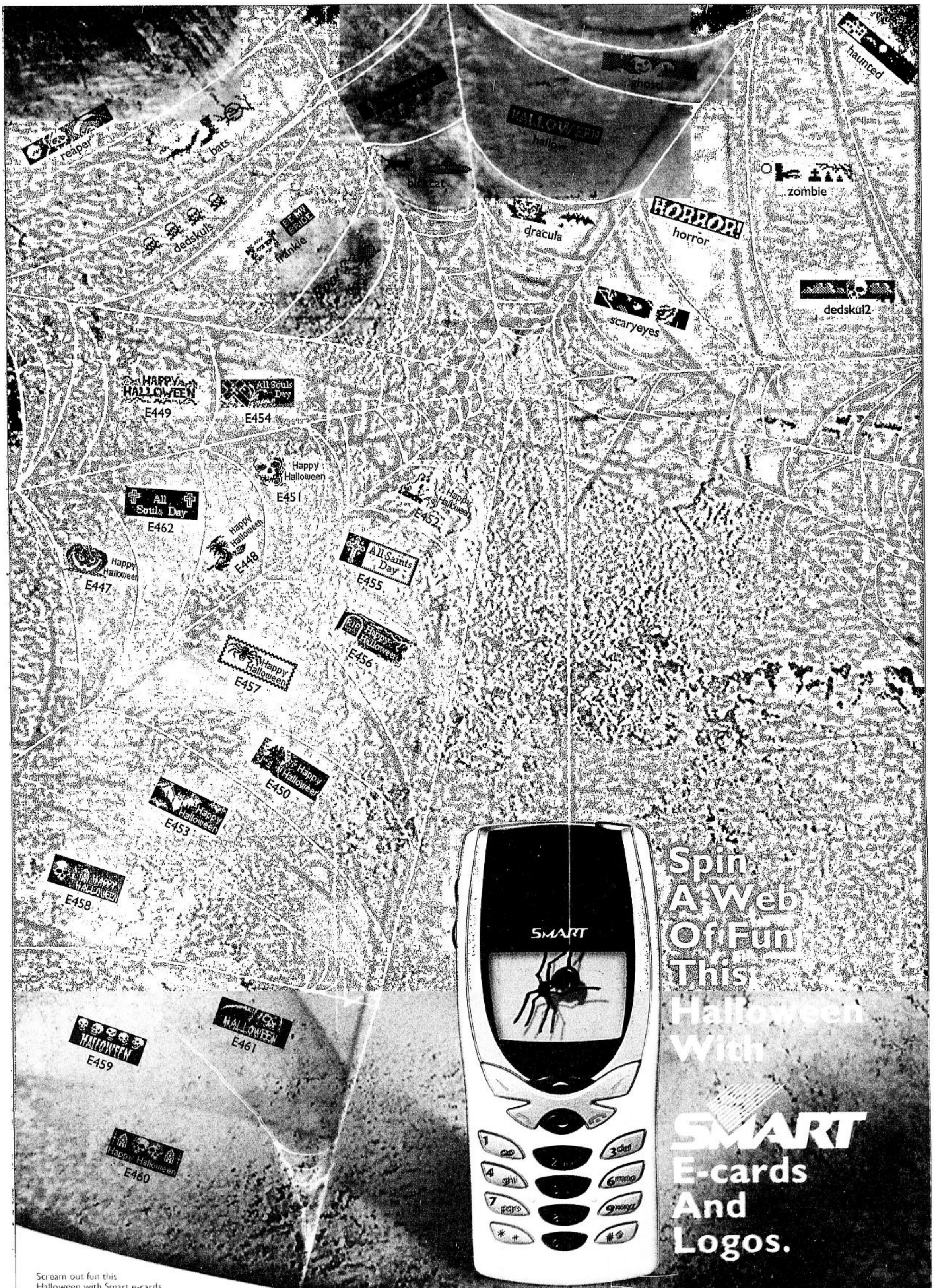
PINE MOUNTAIN, Georgia—Davis Love III, with thousands of soldiers from nearby Fort Benning cheering him on, shot a 10-under-par 62 Friday to seize the lead midway through the Buick Challenge.

The 10-birdie round pushed him to 14-under 130, tying the 36-hole record on the Mountain View course at Callaway Gardens. He was one stroke ahead of first round co-leader Vijay Singh and Chris DiMarco.

The normally small gallery in rural west Georgia was bolstered by busloads of soldiers from Fort Benning.

Tournament officials have routinely invited military personnel to attend the second round, but the tradition took on special significance after Sept. 11.





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■ Taxes must be increased, says Binay A24
■ Militarization drives Mangyans to metropolis A24

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Foul play not ruled out in death of DBP official A24

WHAT CHILDREN SEE
"Prevent Red Tide and Fishkill: Save Our Marine Life," by Kianelli Ann M. Palles is one of the major winners in the poster-making contest for children recently conducted by the Citizens' Disaster Response Center. Kianelli Ann is a pupil at the Canlubang Elementary School in Canlubang, Laguna.

WPD review to identify bad eggs among officials

BY JEROME ANING

THE CHIEF of the Western Police District has been asked to review the qualifications and accomplishments of some police officials under him and those found unfit and incompetent will be booted out.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza on Friday said he instructed the WPD director, Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., to form a review committee to evaluate the performance of the officials and to replace them if they would be found wanting.

"It's because of these bad eggs in the ranks of our police force that criminals thrive in Manila," Atienza told reporters in his weekly news conference at City Hall.

Because the WPD leadership conducts assessment meetings every month, Atienza's request for an extraordinary performance and qualification review triggered speculation that a revamp in the district could be forthcoming.

Atienza said his office has received many complaints from residents from all over the city regarding abusive and corrupt WPD officials and lazy and inefficient police personnel.

Most of the complaints range from cases of cell phone snatching and robbery in jeepneys, convenience stores and markets.

The mayor also cited a petition that 73 policemen and 33 barangay chiefs made last month to demand the relief of the head of the Pandacan

WPD REVIEW/ A24

Liwasan taxi, jeep terminals give way to development

BY JEROME ANING

THE MANILA city government yesterday said the FX taxi and jeepney terminals at Liwasang Bonifacio have been temporarily relocated to a portion of the street behind the Bureau of Immigration building in Intramuros as the redevelopment of the park and of the Pasig River banks starts.

"This is just an emergency measure so we can clear the Liwasan as we transform it into a landscaped and bright open space that can function as a genuine plaza," Mayor Lito Atienza said in a news statement.

He said the relocation was meant to facilitate the movement of people at the Liwasan in front of the Post Office building.

The redevelopment of Liwasang Bonifacio, along with that of the Mehan Garden and the Light Rail Transit Central Station, is part of the Central Manila Development Plan.

The mayor said that in a month's time, the taxis, buses and jeepneys would be accommodated at the Park N Ride multi-level parking building at the back of the Metropolitan Theater.

The Liwasan, formerly known as Plaza Lawton, used to be a huge parking space for passenger vehicles bound for southern Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog provinces.

Once the Liwasan redevelopment is finished, Muelle del Rio Street and the riverbank behind the Immigration building will ultimately be transformed into a well-lighted promenade, according to the mayor.

REYES

Shrink expands healing scope

BY SENEN BRAVO

DR. Noel V. Reyes, 35, is not your typical psychiatrist who listens and jots down notes while the patient delivers a monologue from the couch.

Reyes prefers psychotherapy with ambiance. "We are doing away with the traditional patient-in-a-couch setup," he explains. "It could be held in a coffee shop or any place where the patient feels comfortable."

TALES OF THE CITY

Just four days after the Abu Sayyaf raided Ipil, Zamboanga, Reyes and other psychiatrists went to the tormented town to help its people recover from the tragedy.

"We prevented post-traumatic stress disorder cases and made sure the residents went on with their lives," says Reyes.

The boyish-looking Reyes is also the head of the Detoxification Unit at Pavilion II of the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong, where he does the rounds in the wards of drug addicts and alcoholics and asks them why they are undergoing treatment.

"Being aware that they have abused themselves is the first step to recovery," he says.

He also monitors each ward's supply of bedsheets, blankets and medicine. Given an allocation of only P80 per patient in a 4,000-bed hospital, Reyes relies on the patients' livelihood projects. Patients, based on their income bracket, also pay for some of the medicines they use.

This psychiatrist has also appeared on TV shows to share his ideas on sleep disorders, phobia, the Stockholm Syndrome and other condi-

SHRINK/ A24

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NO AMNESTY IN MAKATI

Taxes must be increased, says Binay

BY ALCUIN PAPA

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay on Friday rejected the suggestion of a tax amnesty for delinquent taxpayers as an alternative to raising the real estate taxes in the city.

Binay also said he would carry out the real estate tax increase.

"Every opportunity you get, you must increase (taxes) but slowly," Binay told reporters.

He said declaring a tax amnesty for delinquents would only encourage them to continue not paying their taxes.

"They get used to being delinquent in paying their taxes, they abuse," he said.

Binay said he would be open to a tax amnesty subject to certain conditions.

"Maybe we can study a tax amnesty if delinquent taxpayers would be willing to sign an undertaking that they would not falter in their payments anymore for the next five years," he explained.

Residents of exclusive villages and merchants in the city suggested a tax amnesty as an alternative to increasing real estate taxes. Citing the slowdown in the economy, they even called for a moratorium on a real estate tax increase.

But Friday when he talked with reporters, Binay seemed determined to implement the increase, saying that Makati has not raised taxes since 1995 when the former municipality was upgraded to a city.

According to the law, cities that have just been converted from municipalities cannot raise their taxes for five years starting from their upgrade.

Binay justified the increase by saying Makati has one of the lowest tax rates among cities and that taxes would have to be raised to enable it to deliver basic services to its people.

"We have to deliver services on a city level yet we are collecting on a municipal level," he said.

Residents said some of the projects of the Makati City government could be delayed or postponed because of lack of funds. Binay asked, "Are we willing to delay the delivery of services?"

He said increasing the real estate tax would also mean an increase in barangay funds and the special education fund.

The city council is set to pass any one of three proposed ordinances that would lead to an increase in the real estate tax. Binay said the least costly of the three would most probably be passed.

Militarization drives Mangyans to metropolis

BY AGNES E. DONATO

MASSIVE military operations in Oriental Mindoro have driven more than 60 Mangyan families from their tribal community in that province to the metropolis.

Aynong Ingay, head of the Samahang Pantribu ng Mangyan sa Mindoro, said he and his fellow Mangyahs were forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in Metro Manila.

Ingay said 66 Mangyan families have arrived in Metro Manila while at least 100 more families were expected to join the exodus in the coming weeks.

The refugees came from the towns of Bulalakaw, Mansalay, Roxas and Bongabong in Oriental Mindoro.

Since their arrival in Metro Manila on Oct. 18, the Mangyans have been transferring from one church to another because no organization could afford to accommodate them for a long period of time.

They first stayed at the St. Vincent Seminary in Tandang Sora, Quezon City. On Thursday they moved to St. Theresa's College in Banawe, also in Quezon City.

Ingay said the St. Theresa sisters agreed to take them in for five days, after which they again have to look for a new place.

Ingay said the military had placed him on its order of battle for his role in the Samahang Pantribu ng mga Mangyan, which advocates the right of indigenous people to their ancestral domain and culture. He said the Armed Forces of the Philippines had been suspecting his group of being sympathizers of the communist New People's Army.

Ingay lives in Sitio Baet, where Army Major Noel Buan was released in April by the communist rebels who had kidnapped him.

"Our community was very peaceful before the military came," Ingay said in Filipino. "But now, we feel nothing but fear. Everything is prohibited."

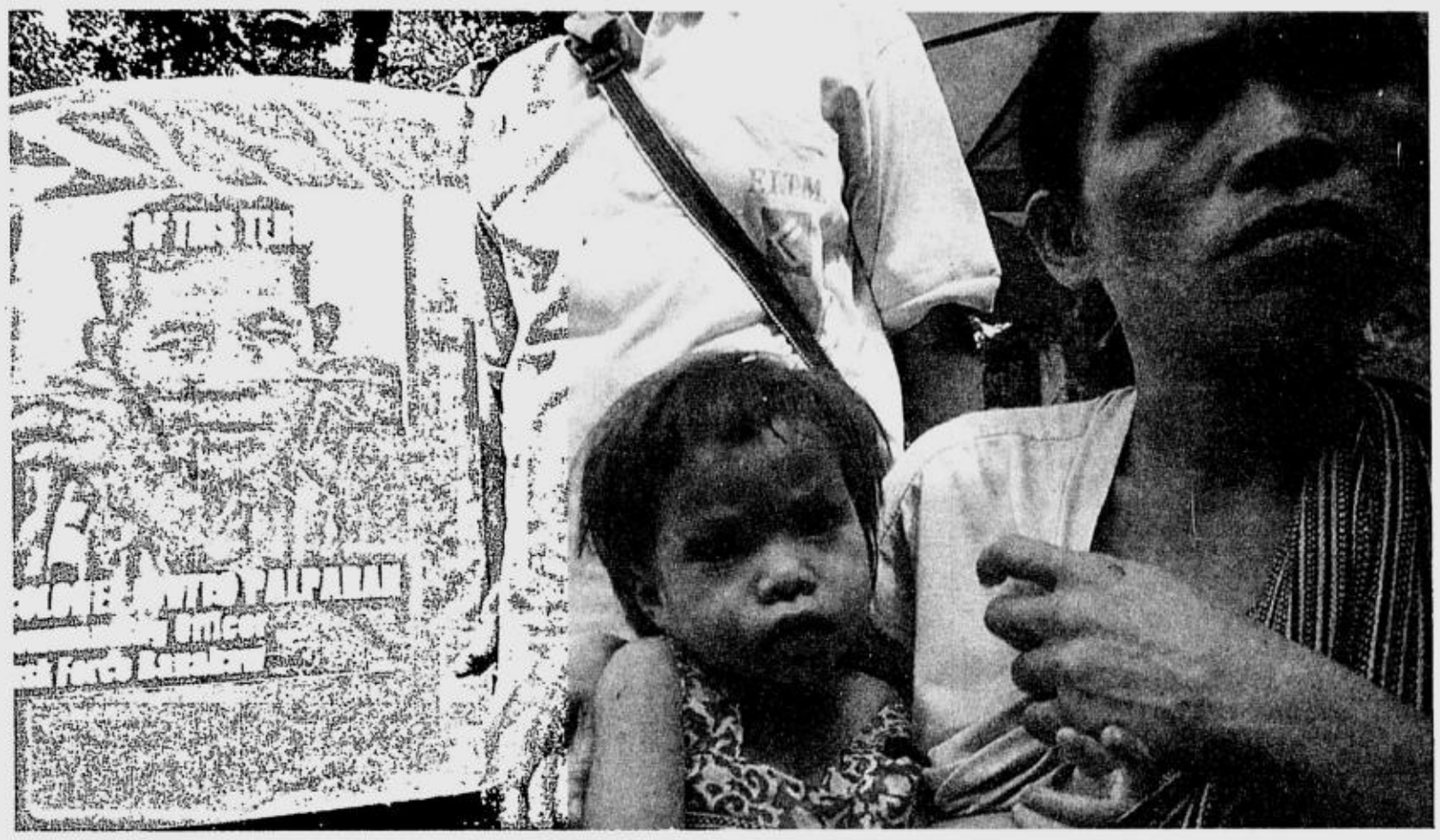
He said all lights must be turned off at 6 p.m. The military reportedly also banned the use of flashlights, talking to non-natives, shaking hands, and buying too much food in the market.

Ingay said Budbud Osting, 65, an active member of the Samahang Pantribu, was beheaded by still unknown suspects on Oct. 11, a few weeks after the Mangyan organization officers refused to present themselves at the 16th Infantry Batallion camp.

Ingay said he hoped the military would pull out of the Mangyan communities and allow the natives to return by December.

The human rights group Karapatan said six AFP battalions are in Mindoro.

With a report from Creamy Cedillo



A MOTHER and her child join the protest in Quezon City against the militarization and human rights violations they say are being committed in their native Mindoro Oriental. JOAN BONDOC

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 28, 2001
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sir. 35:12-14, 16-18

THE LORD is judge and shows no partiality. He will not disadvantage the poor, he who hears the prayer of the oppressed. He does not disdain the plea of the orphan, nor the complaint of the widow. The one who serves God wholeheartedly will be heard; his petition will reach the clouds. The prayer of the humble person pierces the clouds, and he is not consoled until he has been heard. His prayer will not cease until the Most High has looked down, until justice has been done in favor of the righteous.

2nd Reading: 2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-1

AS for me the time of sacrifice has arrived, and the moment of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness with which the Lord, the just judge, will reward me on that day; and not only me, but all those who have longed for his glorious coming.

At my first hearing in court no one supported me; all deserted me. May the Lord not hold it against them. But the Lord was at my side, giving me strength to proclaim the Word fully, and let all the pagans hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will save me from all evil, bringing me to his heavenly kingdom. Glory to him for ever and ever. Amen!

Gospel: Lk. 18:9-14

JESUS told another parable to some persons fully convinced of their own righteousness, who looked down on others, "Two men went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and said: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people, grasping, crooked, adulterous, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give the tenth of all my income to the Temple.'

In the meantime the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast saying: 'O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.'

I tell you, when this man went down to his house, he had been set right with God, but not the other. For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be raised."

Commentary

Luke presents two contrasting characters to us. The Pharisee is the model of piety in the Jewish society. The tax collector is listed as a public sinner, by virtue of his occupation. The prayer of the Pharisee is a thanksgiving, bragging his accomplishments. On the other hand, the prayer of the tax collector is a petition for mercy. Striking the breast was a gesture of sorrow for sins. Then without much detail, the conclusion tells us that the tax-collector, the repentant sinner, is accepted by God, while the Pharisee fails in the eyes of God. The lesson is humility. Before God, we cannot boast of anything. We must approach him with utter humility confessing our failures rather than our successes.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (ELECTION LAW/ADMINISTRATIVE LAW)/REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Perfection of appeal within statutory period is mandatory and jurisdictional—Basic is the rule that the perfection of an appeal within the statutory or reglementary period is not only mandatory but also jurisdictional and failure to do so rendered the questioned decision final and executory, and deprives the appellate court or body of jurisdiction to alter the final judgment much less to entertain the appeal. The Comelec Rules of Procedure provides that the parties have five days to interpose an appeal before the Commission on Elections, otherwise the judgment will become final. Despite the misleading allegations of petitioner that he filed the motion for the partial reconsideration of the Supplemental Decision on time, the facts of the case however show the contrary. By the mere lapse of time, the Supplemental Decision was rendered final and executory with respect to petitioner. Hence, as to petitioner, the decision in its entirety had been rendered final such that he had no more right to move for its reconsideration, even if the relief merely referred to an incidental matter. On the other hand, the trial court had the corresponding duty not to act on petitioner's motion for partial reconsideration of the Supplemental Decision when said decision as to petitioner was already final in character. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Zacate v. Commission on Elections, G.R. No. 144678, March 1, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Foul play not ruled out in death of DBP official

BY ALCUIN PAPA

MAKATI police have not ruled out the possibility of foul play in the reported suicide of a top official of the Development Bank of the Philippines on Friday.

PO3 Juanito Ibis said they were still investigating the death of Amando Garcia, 52, vice president of the DBP's credit and appraisal management department.

Ibis pointed out that the crime scene had been cleaned up when police arrived and that the weapon Garcia supposedly used to kill himself has not been found.

Relatives of the victim have refused to talk to police, saying only that Garcia had been suffering from hypertension and insomnia.

Garcia, of Makati City, was found dead in his room Friday morning. Autopsy revealed that he died of a gunshot wound in the mouth, and the bullet went out through the back of his skull.

Garcia had just checked out of the Potenciano Hospital (formerly Polymedic) in Mandaluyong where he had been confined for one week for hypertension and insomnia, police learned.

His wife Elena told police that she was taking a bath in their house when she heard a shot. When she rushed upstairs, she found her husband slumped on the floor with blood oozing out of his head.

Relatives brought him to the Potenciano Hospital but he was declared dead on arrival.

Shrink expands healing scope

(From page A23)

tions of the human mind. Recently he talked about his job as a government psychiatrist on ABC 5's "Trabaho Lang."

Reyes and his colleagues also host "Haybol Natin," a Radio Veritas program on mental health, in line with the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration of 2001 as World Mental Health year.

"Freud caught my fancy, though I don't call myself a Freudian," says the graduate of the De La Salle College of Medicine to explain why he chose psychiatry.

"They joke *na baka mahawa ako sa mga pasyente ko*. It's a stigma that psychiatrists have to live with. When you seek the help of psychiatrists, people conclude right away that you are nuts. What they don't realize is that a healthy body should include a healthy mind."

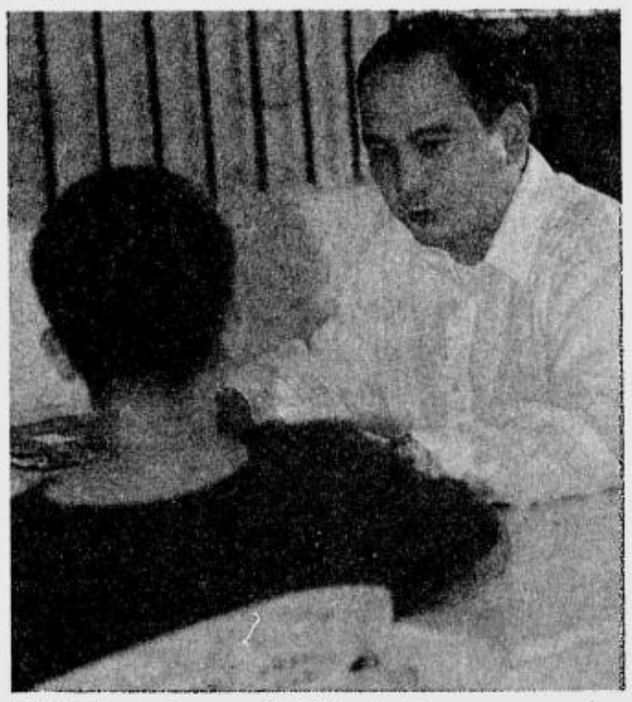
Treatment in psychiatry is individualized, unlike in other medical specializations, he points out. "One diagnosis cannot apply to another patient, and we dig deeper into the person," he says.

He admits that Freud's popularity has waned, "because Freud mostly rooted his ideas in sex and this is not enough."

In the early '90s, when most doctors were going abroad, Reyes went to provinces as a volunteer in former Health Secretary Juan Flavier's Doctors to the Barrio outreach program.

He admits that pressures proved too much in his first year of residency training. "The sight of 300 patients drained me. How could I give my best with that number?"

His persistence paid off when he won second prize in a thesis contest among interns in leading hospitals in the country. "I defended the case of an 18-year-old girl with a borderline personality disorder," says Reyes.



REYES interviews an NCMH patient. JOAN BONDOC

Reyes also finds time to conduct seminars for private companies. "I administer team building seminars and tackle improving esteem in the workplace," he says.

Saturdays find him attending to patients at Lambs Homecare, a drug rehab center in San Juan.

It's not all work for Dr. Reyes. "I joined a three-month taebo session with fellow doctors within the NCMH premises," he says. "We saw the need to loosen up once in a while."

At home, he tries to empty his mind of work. "That's how I relax. I just enjoy the moment with my wife Leslie and two kids."

WPD review to identify . . .

(From page A23)

police station, Supt. Jose Victor Bantigue.

His office is still studying the merits of the petition, according to the mayor.

He said Pasinos' report on the outcome of the review would determine which police officer would have to be relieved and replaced.

The mayor also asked Manila residents not to hesitate in filing complaints before the People's Law Enforcement Board complaints against inefficient and abusive policemen.

The PLEB, composed of city officials and representatives from the private sector, hears administrative complaints against erring policemen.

METROBRIEFS

Grease money

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents on Thursday arrested Benjamin C. Asido Jr., 58, officer-in-charge of the Land Management Bureau's legal division, for allegedly demanding P10,000 from residents of Pangarap Village, Caloocan City. NBI Director Reynaldo G. Wycoco said the residents wanted to appeal their land case to Asido after a court ruled in favor of the Araneta-owned Carmel Farms Inc., which was also claiming the Pangarap property. The residents wanted Asido, a lawyer, to annul the land title issued to Carmel. But instead of helping the residents, Asido allegedly asked P10,000 "in exchange for the processing of their petition," Wycoco said. Jose Justo Yap, head of the NBI's anti-graft division, said his men set up an entrapment operation and caught the suspect with the marked money in his office. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Robbing raiders

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority chief Benjamin Abalos sacked 28 members of the MMDA Special Traffic Action Team for helping themselves to goods that had been confiscated from sidewalk vendors. Abalos said Salecia Molina, chief of the STACT, his assistant Cris Batac, and 26 other traffic enforcers based at the MMDA Impounding Area on Meralco Avenue in Pasig City last week seized a truckload of items from vendors on Gen. Kalentong Street in Mandaluyong City. MMDA Special Action Unit chief Romy Enriquez said the vendors themselves filed robbery charges against Molina and his men for dividing the goods among themselves. The suspects at first denied any knowledge of the missing goods but a search revealed the goods were concealed in their bags and their office desk drawers. *Alcuin Papa*

Holdup victim

JOLLIBEE service crew member Elizalde Agustin, 20, was seriously injured when he tried to fight off a robber yesterday morning in Makati City. Agustin, of Barangay East Rembo, Makati, was walking home on 22nd Street, East Rembo about 3:45 a.m. when "Botchok" blocked his path and announced a holdup, said PO2 Reynaldo Juan. Agustin refused to turn over his valuables and the two men struggled briefly until Botchok stabbed Agustin repeatedly and fled with his cell phone, wallet and other valuables. Agustin is in critical condition at the Ospital ng Makati, police said. *Alcuin Papa*

Amateur abductor

OVERCOME with fear when she realized that police were closing in on her, Lirio Concepcion abandoned her 7-year-old kidnapping victim in San Miguel, Bulacan, seven hours after she took him. Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said Concepcion, 20, is a distant relative of the boy's mother. The National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) said Concepcion fetched the boy from school in San Ildefonso, Bulacan about 9 a.m. Thursday and convinced him to go with her. At 9:30 a.m., the boy's mother received a call from a woman asking for P1 million. The mother managed to bring down the ransom to P300,000. But a scared Concepcion decided to abandon the boy in a cemetery in Sta. Rita Bata about 4 p.m. that same day. Police eventually found the boy. Concepcion was arrested in her house in San Juan, San Ildefonso, Bulacan after the boy described her to police. *Cathy C. Yamsuan*

Most wanted

TEODORICO Paraiso, the most wanted man in Parañaque City, fell into the hands of police Thursday after hiding for almost a year. City police chief Supt. Ruben Catabona said Paraiso, 39, of Barangay San Dionisio, Parañaque City, was arrested at the Salvador Compound when he went home to visit his family. Paraiso was accused of raping and killing a 10-year-old girl, police said. Policemen under Chief Insp. Mario de la Vega served Paraiso with an arrest warrant issued by Judge Zosimo Escano of Regional Trial Court Branch 259. *Alcuin Papa*

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'TRAINING DAY'

Cops and criminals

BY RUBEN M. CRUZ JR.

REVIEW

I SAW a bootleg copy of Training Day at my friendly VCD pirate's stall in Harrison Plaza some time ago, but I'm glad I passed on it. This is one film that shouldn't be seen on video (genuine or otherwise). The trip to the moviehouse was worth the two hours or so that I spent away from my two babies.

"Training Day" revolves around the story of Jake Hoyt (Ethan Hawke), a rookie in the Los Angeles Police Department who's trying to make detective by joining the narcotics squad of Alonzo Harris (Denzel Washington). His dream has always been to become a police officer and help take crime off the streets.

In Alonzo, a 13-year veteran on the force with over 15,000 years in sentences under his belt, Jake sees the kind of cop he wants to become some day. Alonzo gives Jake a chance, a one-day opportunity ("today and today only") to show that he's worthy to join his narcotics squad. By the end of that day however, everything that Hoyt holds to be true is shattered, and he will never be the same man again.

Not contrived

This is the cop film that I've been waiting to see for some time, inundated as I am with all the phony action sequences and digital pyrotechnics of recent slambangers. "Training Day" has as much drama as suspense, but neither comes off as contrived or unwanted. The script by David Ayer sizzles with the energy of its characters.

What they say and do keep us on the edge throughout the film. This is quite a departure for Ayer whose screenplay credits include "U-571" and "The Fast and the Furious," action-driven films with characters that are more suited for music videos.

Although everything is always on the move in "Training Day," the flow of the action springs from character and story developments.

And the film does have issues for us to ponder. As we walk in Jake Hoyt's shoes, seeing and feeling everything that he does during his 24-hour tryout-cum-hell-ride with Harris, we encounter questions we ourselves ask, living as we are in a society where even the most prominent public officials have been implicated in crimes like drug trafficking and money laundering.

When Jake kisses his wife and baby goodbye, he leaves his pristine suburbia and descends into an urban jungle where Alonzo roams as one of the big cats. All Jake wants is to do something good for the community. He is like many of us who are just trying to make a difference somehow. But Alonzo shows Jake what we ourselves know and suspect all along: that everything is not and could never be just black and white.

Not typical

"To protect the sheep, you gotta catch a wolf," Alonzo tells Jake. "It takes a wolf to catch a wolf." Throughout the day, as they penetrate the ghettos and barrios of Los Angeles, it becomes obvious that Alonzo is not your typical, by-the-book cop.

He never sets foot inside the precinct. He literally busts a rapist's balls instead of taking him into custody, to dispense with the paperwork. He searches a drug dealer's house by flashing a Chinese take-out menu for a search warrant. He saunters through crowds of gangsters as if they were his own posse. He seems to be breaking every rule in the book, yet Jake can't help but not be seduced by Alonzo's competence as a cop.

I can't help it either. I've never missed a Denzel Washington film since I saw him in "Glory." I even saw that silly angel film which paired him with Whitney Houston) and I believe this is his finest performance on film yet.

DENZEL Washington delivers his finest performance.

He keeps the audience second-guessing throughout Alonzo's romp. Is Alonzo really a cop turned criminal or is he just a Ditty Harry type expediting the process of justice and beating the criminals at their own game?

Tour de force

Whether Washington's just glaring at you from the screen, giving out that devilish grin of his, or shooting his mouth off with the street philosophy by which Alonzo lives, you cannot help but be convinced by his tour de force acting.

"A good narcotics agent must have narcotics in his blood," Alonzo says as he goads Jake to smoke some PCP-laced grass. Later, he has Jake taking off his wedding ring because it's a sign of weakness on the street. He also tells him not to bother responding to small crimes.

"Let the garbage men take care of the garbage," he says. "We go after the big fish."

With Washington's performance, it is not difficult to be sucked along with Jake into Alonzo's world. Even when the sequence of events starts to take a darker turn, one is inclined to believe in Alonzo's saving grace.

Though "Training Day" is Washington's film, Hawke ably keeps in step. Their very first scene together is dynamite, with Alonzo bearing down hard on his trainee, leaving him almost breathless.

Perfect stand-in

Hawke, who has retained his "Dead Poets Society" demeanor, is the perfect stand-in for us. He easily exudes the idealism that we all would like to have. And we can sense that although Alonzo is toying with Hoyt, he is not exactly an idiot, that this guy will eventually catch on and do the right thing, or at least we hope that he would.

Hawke has several close-ups where it seems you could practically see the dilemma running through his character's mind. As good as Washington is in the film, his performance would have lost some of its luster with a lesser partner.

With visual flair, director Antoine Fuqua ("Bait," "The Replacement Killers") captures all the gritty details of the ghettos, barrios and the people that inhabit them. The film really soaks in the atmosphere of everyday urban dramas, a realism that sets the perfect stage for the dynamic relationship between cops and criminals in the film.

Fuqua is able to convey a pervading sense of uneasiness in the film that escalates as the day grows older and night sets in.

And even after I was back home changing messy diapers and mixing milk formulas, the questions of "Training Day" linger in my thoughts.

Networks continue to fight it out for honors in region

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

GMA 7 and ABS-CBN programs compete not just for ratings in the home front; they also fight for honors in the region.

Come Dec. 4, several programs of the country's leading networks will vie for top honors with other shows in the region in the Asian TV Awards. Nine programs of ABS-CBN and five from GMA made it to the list of nominees in this year's awards in 18 categories.

ABS-CBN's "Pangako sa 'Yo," the soap series starring **Jericho Rosales** and **Kristine Hermosa**, is nominated in the best drama series category.

The "Maalaala Mo Kaya" episode, "Wedding Ring," is nominated for best single drama or telemovie, competing with a "GMA Telecine Specials" episode, "Umaga Tanghali."

"Asap" makes it to the nominees list of best music program and the Yuletide TV special, "A Christmas Prayer," is cited as best entertainment special.

Janus del Prado and **Raymond Bagatsing** have been nominated best drama actor, while **Jaclyn Jose** is nominated for best drama performance by an actress, sharing the citation with **Assunta de Rossi** for GMA 7's "Larawan."

Two other show of ABS-CBN on Studio 23 were also cited – "The Explorer" for best natural history or wildlife program and "Paintings" for best infotainment program.

GMA 7's "Five and Up" episode on "Tulay ng Kulay (Bridges of Color)" was cited as best youth program.

Michael V competes with four others in the region for best comedy performance by an actor and "Debate" host **Winnie Monsod** is nominated for best current affairs or magazine program presenter.

A record number of 1,200 entries were received for this year's sixth Asian TV Awards. They came from more than 104 companies in 14 countries in Asia, including Japan, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, India, Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

The nominees were selected by a panel of 42 judges who are involved in a day-to-day basis in the broadcast industry in Asia. As in previous years, every effort was made to ensure the entries were judged by industry peers.

The awarding ceremony will be held Dec. 4 in Singapore. A full list of nominations in the Asian TV Awards can be accessed through www.asiantvawards.com

From sweet to 'contravida'

CAN YOU imagine the sweet and doe-eyed beauty **LJ Moreno** playing a bad girl?

LJ has done drama and comedy, both on TV and the movies, but starting Monday, Oct. 29, she will play a villainess in the GMA 7 series, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," 8 p.m. nightly.

LJ is Cassandra, the new bombshell nemesis of the series' lead star, **Angelika de la Cruz**. LJ will take over from the character previously played by **Sunshine Dizon**.

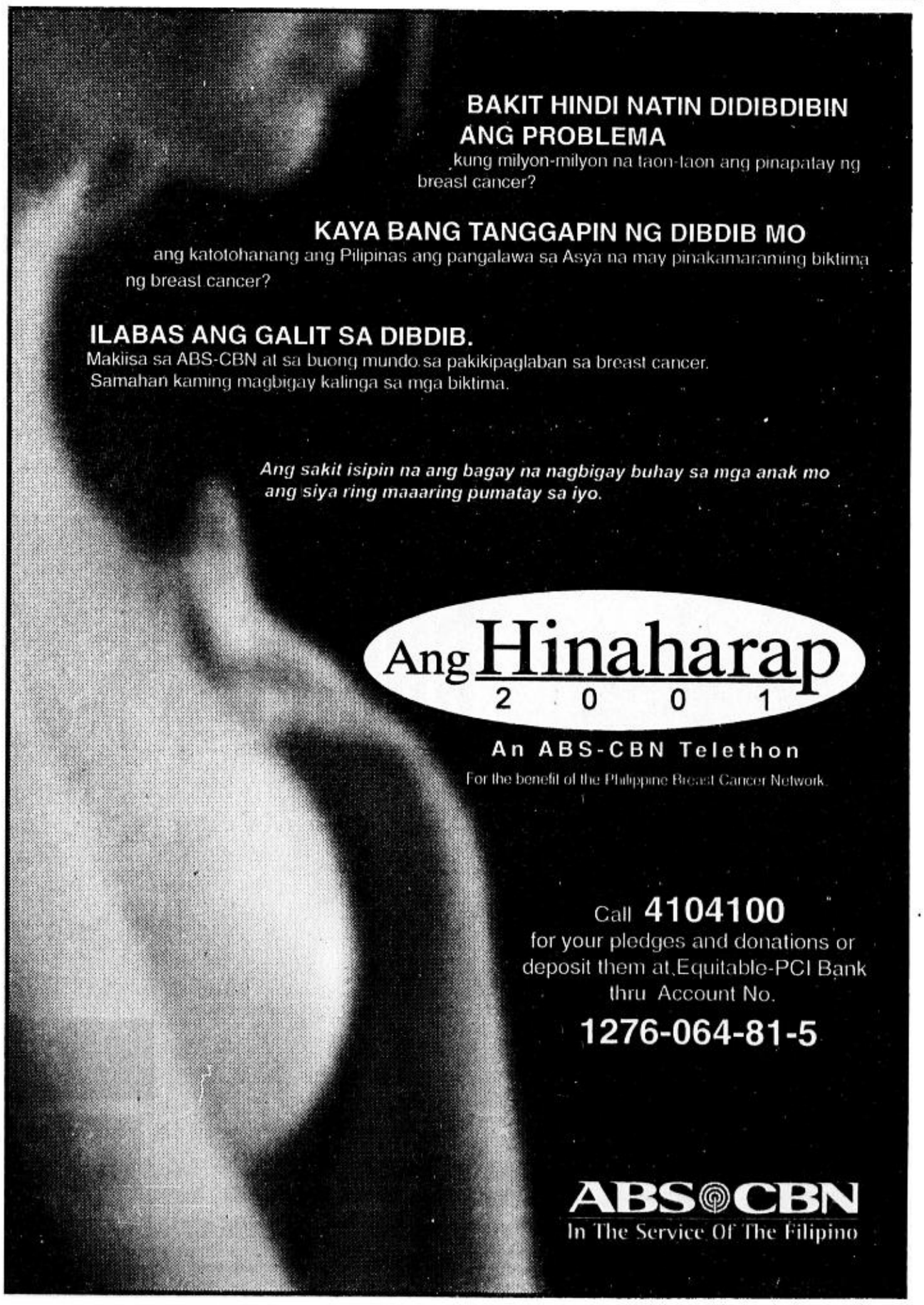
"It's not me," LJ says of the character, "but I find it challenging, although it's hard to say if I can equal the role of Sunshine."

LJ appears to have charted a clear course as far as her career and personal life are concerned. She displayed her flair for dramatic acting in the GMA mini-series, "Liwanag ng Hatinggabi" as well as in the acclaimed film "Sa Pusod ng Dagat."

On TV, she does comedy in the sitcom, "Kool Ka Lang," starring with the wacky tandem of **Raymart Santiago** and **Joey Marquez**.

LJ has also gotten over her previous relationship with actor **Diether Ocampo** and recently admitted that she's been romantically involved again.

NETWORKS/ A26



Side A 'Going on 17' at Big Dome

SIDE A's excellent music has sustained for them a loyal following that has spanned 16 years. And what better way to celebrate than with a special concert, "Going on 17," Dec. 15 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Their special guests include Lani Misalucha, Ogie Alcasid, Willie Revillame, Diether Ocampo, Jericho Rosales, Carlos Agassi, Bernard Palanca, The Manoeuvres and Hotlegs.

The show is mounted by Bigtyme Production Inc. and will be directed by Bert de Leon.

Tickets are now available at SM Ticketnet at 911-5555 or Artistation, Inc. at 812-7940.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.

Bubble Boy

SNEAK PREVIEWS TOMORROW!

IMAGINE LIVING YOUR LIFE INSIDE A PLASTIC BUBBLE...

Meet Jimmy Livingston (Jake Gyllenhaal), a 17-year-old kid who has all the normal experiences of a boy growing up, except he lives in a plastic bubble.

Then he falls in love, but the girl he wants will marry another---if he does not stop the wedding in time. So, Jimmy builds a bubble suit.

The movie is an outrageously funny road trip across the U.S., where Jimmy meets bikers, rock stars, freaks and a cult, racing against time and his parents, who are determined to bring him back to the safety of his "bubble room."

A hilarious coming-of-age comedy for anyone who has ever been in love.

LOOK OUT, WORLD, HERE COMES BUBBLE BOY!

OPENS IN CINEMAS ON NOV. 14

MTRCB RATING R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

GHOSTS OF MARS

'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter

Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.

But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.

Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release

OPENS OCTOBER 31

ARTFILM GLORIETTA 4 — Art Films — AYALA CINEMAS

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PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

stuart TOWNSEND | frances O'CONNOR | charlotte BRADLEY | & kate HUDSON

He's the most outrageous secret three sisters ever kept... from each other.

about *Adam*

A Romantic Comedy About A Tale Of Familial Sexual Intrigue

Lucy Owens has terrible luck in love. While doing her routine of singing torch songs, waiting tables, and complaining about her love life, she meets Adam. The two exchange just one look and Lucy is ready to marry him. However, Adam proves to be unpredictable as he sets out to date Lucy's sisters, Alice and Laura. A waitress falls for a handsome customer who seduces her, her two sisters, her brother, and her brother's girlfriend.

Featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

NOW SHOWING

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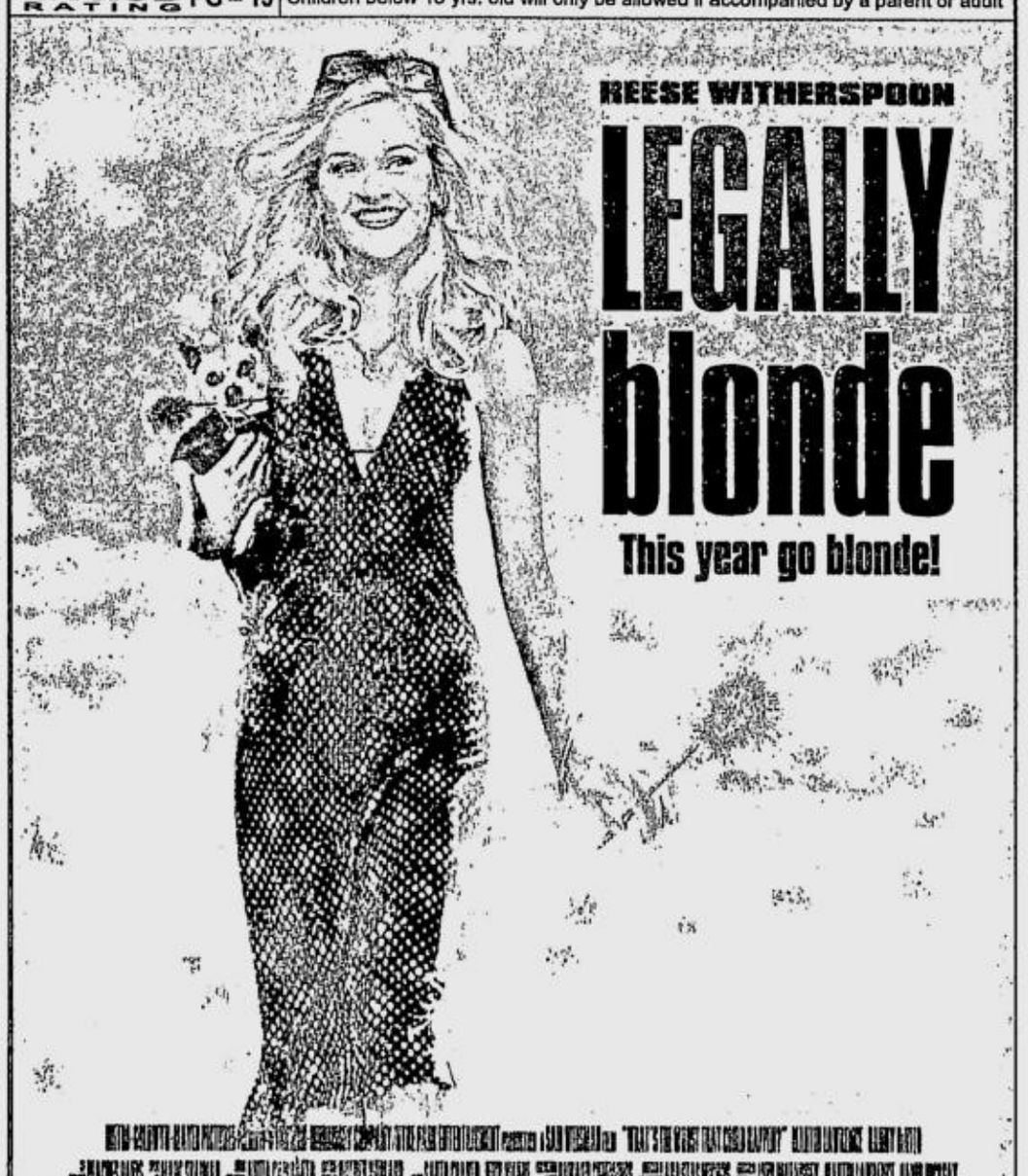

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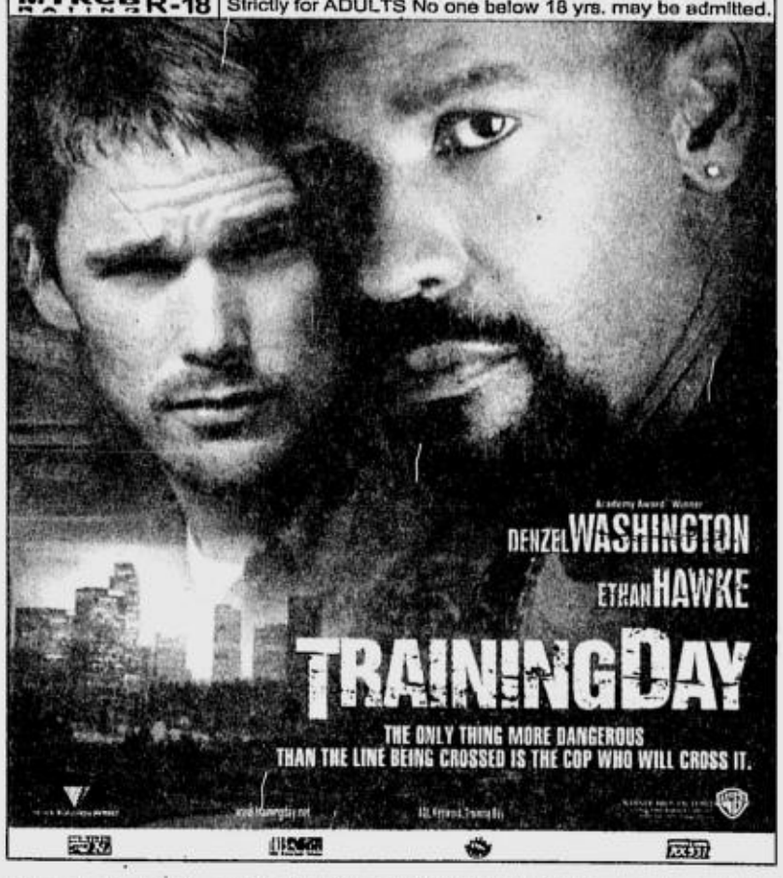
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



MORENO. Has charted a clear course for her career and personal life.

Networks . . . (From page A25)

The guy is an American, **Sean Jones**, whom she met through her female friend.

"Initially, I really didn't like him," says LJ of her new boyfriend. "In fact, he was dating my friend when I got to know him. But after two months of hanging out with him, we started warming up to each other."

Even if she has tried to detach her personal life from her show biz career, LJ continues to be hounded by intrigues. But she has been in the business long enough to learn not to dwell on the rumors and improve her craft instead.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

All-new 'MATRIX'-style sci-fi actioner

Jet Li vs. Jet Li in 'THE ONE'

What if you discovered the most dangerous man in the universe was you?

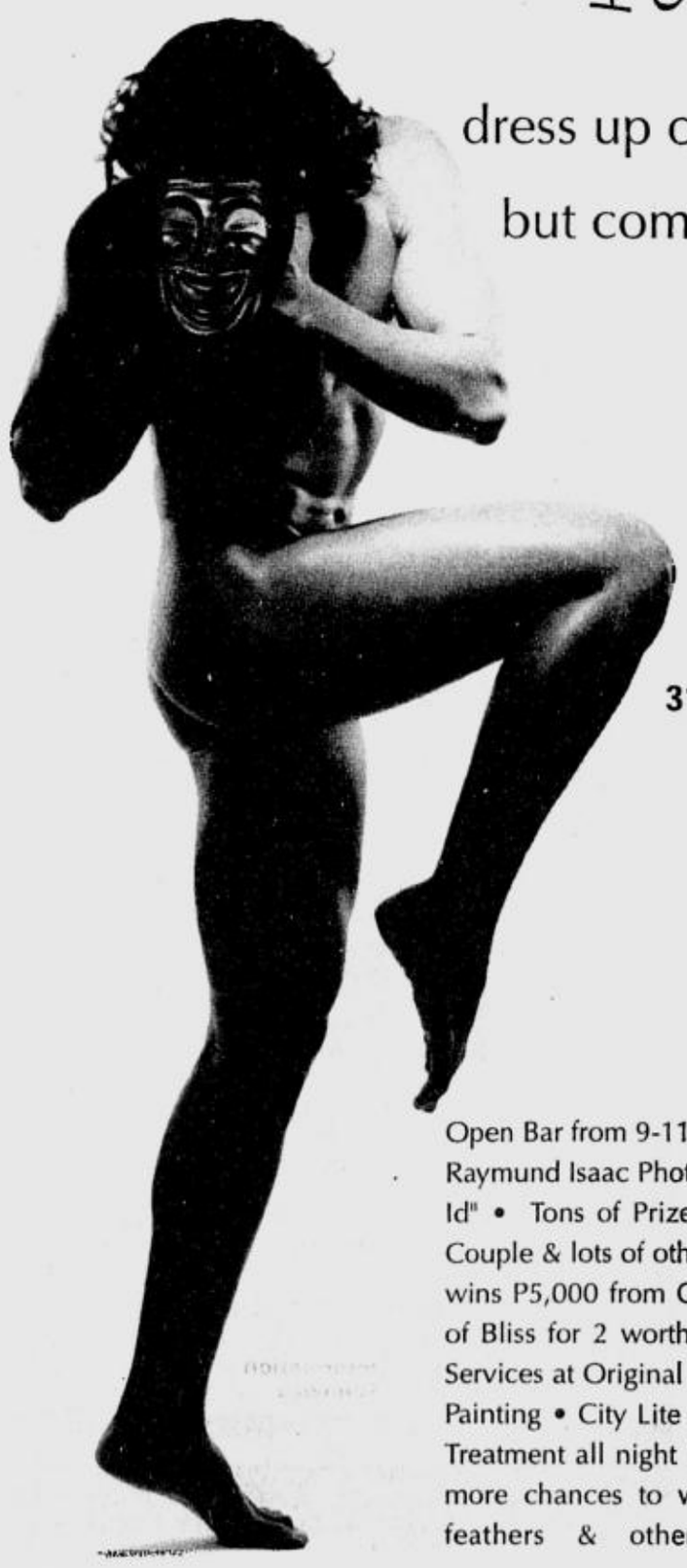
Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special efx-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."

The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

Mauna na! Sneak Preview Oct. 29 - 30!
- Regular Run Begins Nov. 7! -

City Life 88.3 STREET PARTY!



dress up or dress down...

but come in Costume!

31 October, 2001, 9 p.m.

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Open Bar from 9-11 p.m. • Live Bands all night • Raymund Isaac Photography Exhibit: "Unexplored Id" • Tons of Prizes for Most Skin Shown, Best Couple & lots of other Categories • Best Costume wins P5,000 from City Lite 88.3 FM, plus a Day of Bliss for 2 worth P27,000 in Spa & Skin Spa Services at Original Skin by VMV! • Body & Face Painting • City Lite 88.3 FM Winners get Special Treatment all night long • Tune into 88.3 FM for more chances to win • plus tooters, honkers, feathers & other ticklish party favours!

"Scream," photography by Raymund Isaac, artist, photographer, writer, vmv user since 1988

this Halloween, let it all hang out!

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Reese Witherspoon, comedienne with heart and smarts

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"LEGALLY Blonde" is one of the most delightful viewing experiences we've had this year. The icing on its already yummy cake is the fact that it also has a number of incisive things to say about the real meaning of love, self-worth and becoming more than what narrow-minded people think you are.

As Elle Woods, Reese Witherspoon paces the rest of the film's spirited cast with her portrayal of a ditzy Barbie-doll bimbette who, to regain the love of the man she loves, follows him to Harvard Law School!

You'd expect her to fall flat on her cute, button nose (or wiggly rump), but Elle has a surprise in store for everybody -- including herself. She soon forgets the man of her dreams and genuinely falls in love with the study of law itself, what it can do, how it can help people, etc.

That newfound love, coupled with her natural empathy for people and gut feel, enables her to look beyond the usual legalistic limits and come up with inspired lines of

REESE/ A28

NOW SHOWING
SA TALK 'N TEXT CELLPHONE MO!

Get a chance to win exclusive premiere tickets by joining the Trip Trivia Quiz!

Sali na sa The Movie Club to get the official Trip logos and ringtones!

Just type JOIN MOVIE and send to 239!

To Get TRIP...	Key In:
Logo List of Keywords	LOGO TRIP and send to 239
Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
List of all Ringtones	TONE TRIP and send to 239
Ringtones*	TONE <keyword> send to 239
Group Graphics Keywords	GROUP TRIP and send to 239
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC TRIP and send to 239
Picture Messages*	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Trivia Quiz	PLAY TRIP and send to 239
Screen Saver	SAVER TRIP and send to 239

*Available on selected handsets
To receive more information on the commands, key in HELP <COMMANDS> and send to 239

Available ringtones		
TONE BARKADA	TONE GIRL	TONE PAGSINTA
TONE PANGARAP	TONE KUNGWALAKA	
TONE HAPAPA-UUHH	TONE TRIPMOBA	

Trip Apparel & Accessories by Islands Souvenirs • Trip Eyewear by 98 degrees

Dine out with the cast!
Ang top 20 winners na may pinakamaraming correct answers will dine with the cast after the premiere.

1. All Talk 'N Text, SMART Gold and SMART Buddy GSM subscribers are eligible to participate in the promo.
2. The subscriber should register in the Movie Club to join the promo. A participant may register only once. For first-time registrants, Talk 'N Text subscribers should do the ff. steps:
   1. Send a text message to the number 239 stating "JOIN MOVIE."
   2. Key in "NAME <full name>" and send to 239
   3. Key in "BIRTH <mmddyy>" and send to 239
   4. Key in "ADD <address>" and send to 239

   Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent.
3. The Movie Club members can win free tickets to the advance screening of Trip by joining the Trip Trivia Quiz. He/she can join by typing "PLAY TRIP" and sending it to 239. The Movie Club will text back with trivia questions which the member should answer by texting his/her choice of answers <1,2,3,4>.
4. The top 100 members with the most number of correct answers will win two free movie tickets each for the premiere showing of Trip on November 6, 2001 at SM Megamall Cinema 10, at 7 PM.
5. The top 20 members with the most number of correct answers win the privilege of having free dinner with the Trip cast at Mario's Restaurant at St. Francis Square in Ortigas Center right after the premiere night.
6. The cellphone number of each registered subscriber will automatically be the official entry.
7. Deadline for sending of entries will be on 12 midnight of November 4, 2001.
8. Winners will be determined at 11 AM of Nov. 5, 2001 at the 27/F, Smart Tower Building, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City using a computer-generated system checked by and operated under the supervision of a DTI representative.
9. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
10. Winners will be notified via text message and a voice call to their registered mobile number.
11. Winners may claim their tickets on November 5 from 1 PM to 7PM at the Smart Wireless Center at SM Megamall or at the Talk 'N Text Movie Club booth at the SM Megamall on the date of the premiere night. Winners must present their active Talk 'N Text/Smart cellphone with the winning SIM numbers and valid IDs with photo.
12. All employees of Smart Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, Information Gateway Inc., and their advertising agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
13. Promo period is from October 27 to November 4, 2001.
14. Promo is for GMA only.

Exclusive Premiere
November 6, 2001
SM Megamall Cinema 10 • 7PM
Regular showing starts Nov. 7, 2001

Download requests will be charged as follows: Help and other regular commands - P2.50 ; logos, ringtones , picture messages and screensavers -- P12.00.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1685, Series of 2001

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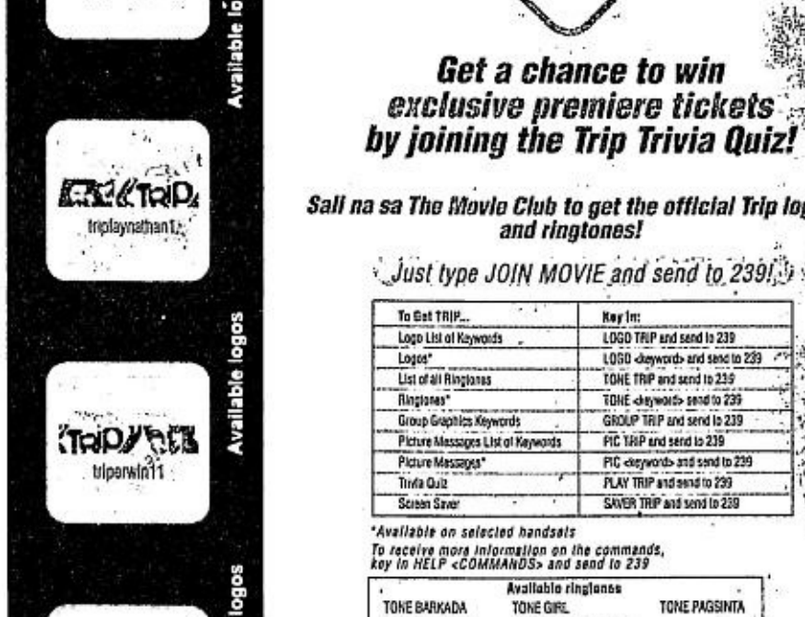

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Reese . . .

(From page A27)

research and questioning that make her win her cases.

It's as if "Clueless" became completely clued-in, s if Marilyn Monroe and Judy Holiday reinvented themselves into Juliette Binoche – but without losing any of their sense of fun and wiggle!

The film is so diverting and astute that it has the audience reacting with giggles, hearty laughter and thoughtful asides, in frequent alternation.

Its ability to delight a wide range of viewers is impressive and unique. It's born out of an inspired combination of an initially shallow and trivial heroine and a strong theme about people's ability to transform themselves, if they feel strongly enough about the need to do it.

Sure, the movie has a fantasy premise. Sure, Marilyn Monroe could never give the valedictory address at Harvard Law School. But the film makes the improbably, even the impossible, happen – in its pluperfect universe.

That universe is pluperfect because most of its elements fit in a sweet, seamless manner, thanks to adroit perceptive filmmaking and a great comedic talent in Witherspoon, who makes the production's lead role her own.

Witherspoon isn't a great screen beauty, but she's cute and kooky as heck, and she wears her heart proudly and brightly in her cleavage, for al the world to ogle at.

Her combination of heart and humor enables her to make her initially silly character likable instead of a total turnoff. And, when the bimbette does a quintuple pirovette and becomes a Lawyer, she pulls the amazing transformation off while becoming even more likable in the process.

She's so good that she could get an acting nomination next year, even if her role is "just" a comic one. And the other members of the cast, specially the actresses who play her romantic rival, her nailstylist-friend and her "monster" teacher at law school, also turn in bang-on characterizations.

They're really wonderful, but Elle-Reese is the best!

Family night

SUNDAY night is family night once more on Channel 2, as "Home Along da Riles" follows "Wansapanataym" starting today. The episode is a Halloween-themed adventure for the members of the Cosme family, who meet a young man (Baron Geisler) who turns out to be a ghost.

Dolphy's sitcom is marking its 10 anniversary this December, so we can expect to see particularly eventful episodes in the weeks leading up to the show's landmark celebration.

Ethan Hawke in 'Training Day'

"TRAINING Day" is Denzel Washington's film, but Ethan Hawke also has a strong role in it. He plays a rookie cop who thinks he is headed for a day of minor busts and basic instruction, but winds up experiencing the most dangerous and exciting 24 hours in his life.

That's because his teacher, a top drug enforcer (Washington) whom he reveres, is in fact, not as heroic as he initially believed, and his methods of intimidation and fear drag Hawke's character into a terrifying world where danger and death accost

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8 BUBBLE BOY

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11 PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS
12 NAKED NIGHTS

SM CITY MANILA 5238249
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4 AMERICAN PIE 2
5 THE BODY
6 BUBBLE BOY
7 THE ONE
8 PRINCESS DIARIES
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11 HIYAS SA PARAISO
12 MANANABAS

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2 13 DAYS
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4 THE ONE
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7 AMERICAN PIE 2
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9 DOS EKIS
10 BUBBLE BOY
11 MANANABAS
12 PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS

SM TUTUBAN 2514302
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2 DOS EKIS
3 THE ONE
4 MANANABAS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452
1 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2 MANANABAS
3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 DOS EKIS
5 THE ONE
6 LEGALLY BLONDE
7 AMERICAN PIE 2
8 TRAINING DAY
9 BUBBLE BOY
10 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
11 PRINCESS DIARIES
12 HIYAS

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888
1 THE ONE
2 MANANABAS
3 AMERICAN PIE 2
4 LEGALLY BLONDE
5 HIYAS SA PARAISO
6 BUBBLE BOY
7 DOS EKIS
8 TRAINING DAY
9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820605
1 THE ONE
2 DOS EKIS
3 HIYAS SA PARAISO

SM CEBU 2313878
1 OSMOSIS JONES
2 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3 THE HOLE
4 ST. FRANCISVILLE
5 MANANABAS
6 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7 AMERICAN PIE 2

SM ILOILO 3209422
1 MARITAL RAPE
2 CLOSED
3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 ST. FRANCISVILLE
5 MR. NICE GUY
6 OSMOSIS JONES
7 CLOSED
8 NAKED NIGHTS

SM PAMPANGA 7120015
1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 NAKED NIGHTS
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4 THE BODY
5 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6 DOS EKIS

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4 DOS EKIS

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3 DOS EKIS
4 LEGALLY BLONDE

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1 TRAINING DAY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 LEGALLY BLONDE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE ONE (Sneak Preview) in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 ABOUT ADAM (Exclusive Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 BUBBLE BOY (Sneak Preview) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 LEGALLY BLONDE in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 AMERICAN PIE 2 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film

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1 TRAINING DAY in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 CLOSED in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE ONE (Sneak Preview) in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS NOV. 10, 16, 17 - 8 PM NOV. 11, 18 - 3 PM Onstage
5 DOS EKIS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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1 THE ONE (Sneak Preview) THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 TRAINING DAY in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 LEGALLY BLONDE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 LEGALLY BLONDE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 DOS EKIS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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5 GOLD (DOLBY) LEGALLY BLONDE
6 GOLD (SDDS) AMERICAN PIE 2
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE BODY
8 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9 DOS EKIS
10 MANANABAS

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7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

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1 (DOLBY) DOS EKIS
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 HIYAS
6 RESERVE
7 (DTS) LEGALLY BLONDE
8 (SDDS) AMERICAN PIE 2
9 (DOLBY) TRAINING DAY
Caloocan
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2 DOS EKIS
Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
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2 DOS EKIS
3 MANANABAS
4 (SDDS) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5 HIYAS
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7 (DTS) TRAINING DAY
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE
Commonwealth
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2 DOS EKIS
3 MANANABAS
4 HIYAS
5 (SDDS) LEGALLY BLONDE
6 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7 (DOLBY) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
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4 RESERVE
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4 MANANABAS
5 LEGALLY BLONDE

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3 TRAINING DAY
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 HIYAS

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4 LEGALLY BLONDE
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4 13 DAYS

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3 SOON TO OPEN
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3 (DTS) LEGALLY BLONDE
4 MANANABAS
5 HULI SA AKTO

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1 DOS EKIS
2 LEGALLY BLONDE
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9 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
10 TRAINING DAY

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12
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3 TRAINING DAY
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5 DOS EKIS
6 INVISIBLE CIRCUS
7 THE BODY

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31
1 TRAINING DAY
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	THE HOLE
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FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	IRA / CLIMAX
ODEON	DOS EKIS
ODEON-2	TRAINING DAY
ROBEN	HIYAS SA PARAISO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HIYAS SA PARAISO
REMAR	DOS EKIS
REMAR-2	MANANABAS
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A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-76-61 TO 70
CINEMA-1	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-2	TRAINING DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(661-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	SISID
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-2	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-5	THE BODY
CINEMA-6	LEGALLY BLONDE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ISANG LAHI ISANG DUGO
CINEMA-2	LARUANG BUHAY
CINEMA-4	AKO ANG LALAGOT

N'Sync singer makes a splash in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES — And the Oscar goes to... Lance Bass!

Cue ear-splitting shrieks from millions of preteen girls.

For Bass, as most adults don't know, is one-fifth of 'N Sync, the mega-selling boy-band that has helped keep the music industry afloat in recent years.

It's hard to imagine 'N Sync winning a Grammy Award for its lightweight pop. So — strange but true — Bass is setting his sights on winning a coveted Academy Award from stuffy Hollywood for his role as a moonlighting movie producer.

The 22-year-old Mississippi native set up a movie production company earlier this year, naming it A Happy Place, and is holding meetings like everyone else in Hollywood.

The first project, "On the Line," opened across the United

States and Canada last Friday through Miramax Films.

Bass is the star and served as an executive producer. As fellow 'N Syncer and co-star Joey Fatone clarifies, "He was one of many producers" — 14 in all.

The $10 million romantic comedy won't be the one to send Bass to the stage on Oscar night.

Daily Variety described it as a "perfectly harmless, often humorous, featherweight confection."

Bass plays an amiable advertising executive who goes to extraordinary lengths to track down a mystery girl (played by Canadian newcomer Emmanuelle Chriqui) he briefly met on a Chicago train.

The film was directed by Eric Bross in 33 days earlier this year, with the cast and crew shuttling between Toronto and location shots in Chicago.

Pop star vehicles are traditionally box office poison — witness recent cinematic efforts by Madonna and Mariah Carey — but Bass hopes to reach an audience beyond his core fan base of undiscerning pubescent girls. It was originally developed as an R-rated movie, based on a short film called "On the L," but the filmmakers toned down the content to bring in a family crowd.

In the meantime, Bass has his 'N Sync job, which has provided him with unimaginable wealth and fame over the past six years.

Teen pop may have lost some steam in the past year, but Bass sees his band lasting "several more years." *Reuters*

Hanks gets life achievement award

LOS ANGELES — Tom Hanks is joining such past Hollywood Everymen as James Stewart and Jack Lemmon as a recipient of the American Film Institute's life achievement award.

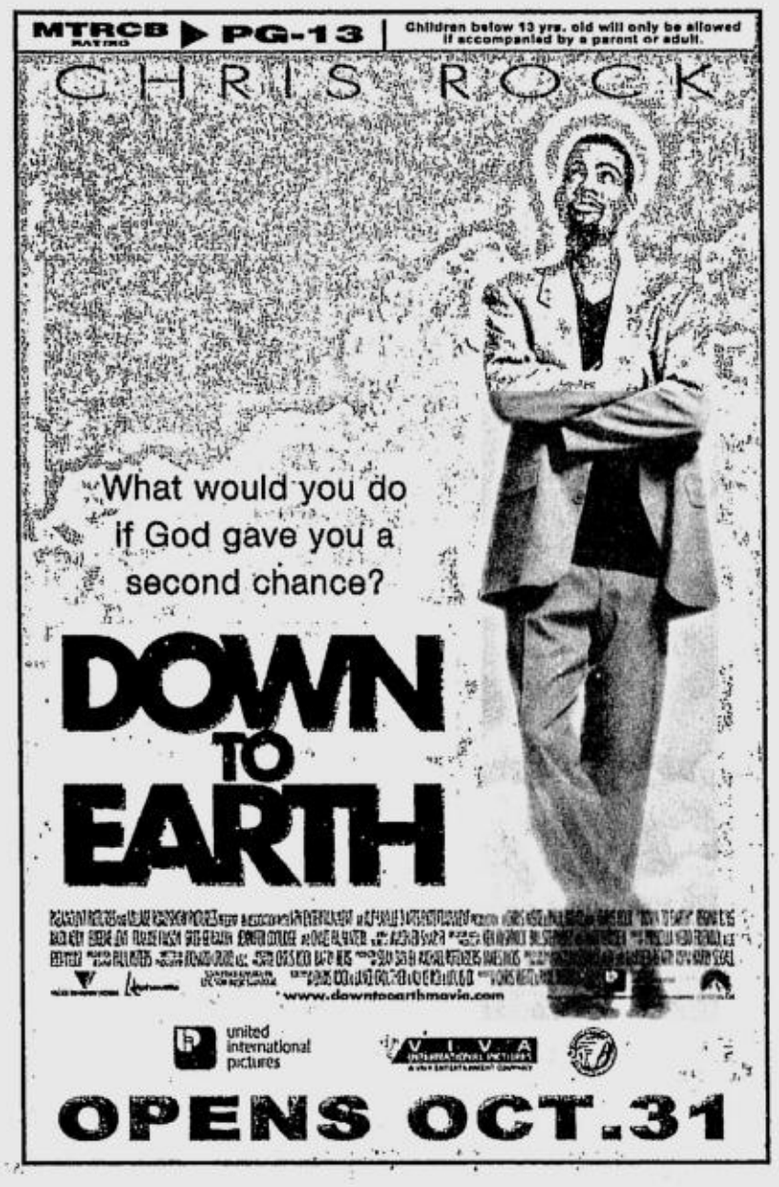
Hanks will be honored with the 30th annual award in a tribute on June 12 at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre, the new home of the Oscar ceremony.

"Tom Hanks is American film's Everyman for a new generation," said Howard Stringer, chair of the AFI board of trustees.

Hanks has played a string of lovable characters in such films as "Splash," "Sleepless in Seattle," "Big" and "You've Got Mail."

A double Oscar winner for "Philadelphia" and "Forrest Gump," Hanks has been nominated three other times, most recently for last year's "Cast Away." *AP*

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
OSMOSIS JONES - GP 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30
TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10
AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
THE BODY - P 13 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30
LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



STAR just imagine

Dear Viewers,

STAR Group Limited (STAR TV) regrets that subscribers to Home Cable, SKY Cable and Pilipino Cable Corporation continue to be denied access to their favorite STAR channels.

Regrettably, there has been a considerable amount of misinformation disseminated to the public by certain parties.

We look forward to cooperating fully with any official probe into the subscription pricing affairs of these companies. We believe that the truth will then come out.

In the meantime, STAR would like to make the following factual clarifications.

We cut off the supply of our channels because of non-payment
STAR suspended access to its services because SKY and PCC (SKYVISION) and HOME owe STAR over P160 million in unpaid fees, dating back to December 2000.

We were informed that there was no prospect of any payment being made this year, either against these unpaid fees, or against future channel supply arrangements. This was not acceptable to us, particularly when you, the subscribers, have been paying monthly subscription fees to receive our channels.

We gave two weeks advanced notice before suspension
We gave SKYVISION and HOME written notices on October 1st and 17th that we will suspend access to our channels on or before October 19th if a schedule of payment was not given. A senior executive of SKYVISION, Lito Tria, acknowledged this deadline in his letter to us dated October 16. However, no payment or undertaking on the arrears was made on October 19, and we reluctantly suspended access to our channels.

We are actually reducing our rates, not "doubling our fees"
In recognition of the economic condition, we offered to reduce our rates and to give additional foreign exchange and incentive discounts.

The deal, which we had tabled, was for a small, single digit percent increase to the total fee, but included 3 new and extra channels (STAR Movies, STAR World and VIVA Cinema) for SKY and PCC subscribers. This offer was rejected by SKYVISION and HOME.

The P150 subscription price hike was pre-planned
The price increase being imposed on subscribers is not because of STAR or other parties' high programming fees. The increase was announced in an earlier letter to subscribers, and is part of a change imposed by SKYVISION and HOME to increase their operating income by reducing the number of channels carried in basic, while increasing the subscription price.

STAR is committed to supporting the Philippine cable industry. We remain steadfast in our position that fairness and propriety are necessary elements in an honest and just working relationship. We also believe that it is the interest of the subscriber that should be first and foremost in the minds of both cable providers and operators.

We continue to enjoy the support of other cable operators, and the STAR channels remain available in METRO MANILA on Destiny Cable, Las Piñas Cable, Parañaque Cable, Global Cable, the Dream Broadcasting DTH service, and in over 300 other cable systems around the Philippines.

Sincerely,

Charles Pollard
Regional Director
STAR Group Limited

STAR MOVIES · ESPN · STAR SPORTS · NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL · STAR WORLD · STAR MANDARIN MOVIES · VIVA CINEMA · FOX NEWS CHANNEL · CHANNEL [V] INTERNATIONAL · PHOENIX CHINESE CHANNEL · PHOENIX INFONEWS CHANNEL

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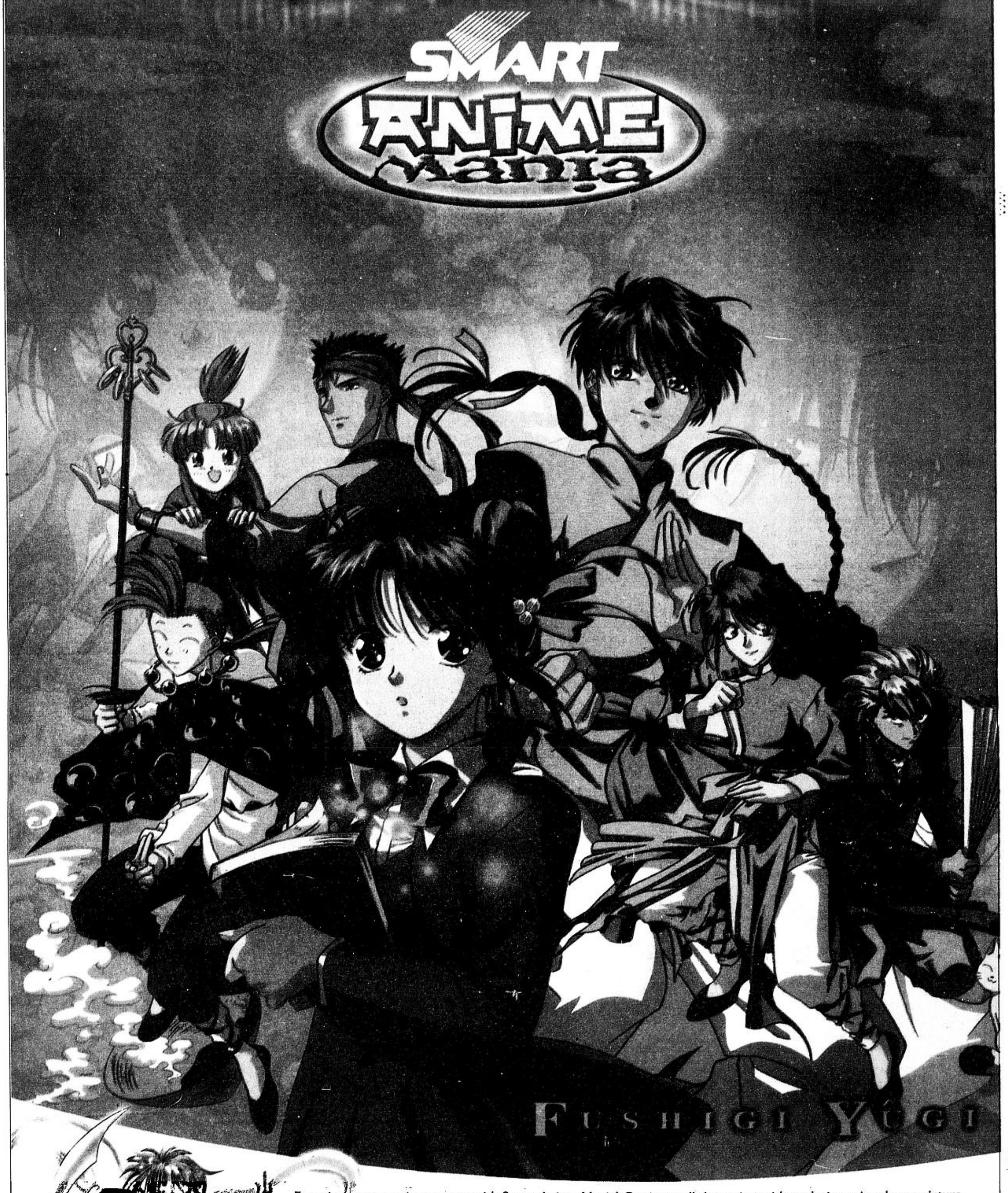
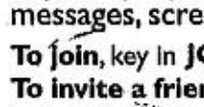
Conquer a Different Universe!

SMART ANIME Mania



Experience pure anime power with Smart Anime Mania! Get in on all the action with exclusive anime logos, picture messages, screensavers and ringtones. You can even build on the fun by inviting friends to be part of the anime circle!

To join, key in **JOIN ANIME** and send to 235. (Once a member you can download exclusive anime logos, pics and ringtones)
To invite a friend, key in **INVITE** <friend's celfone number> (You can invite up to 3 friends per message.)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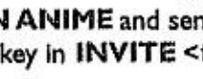
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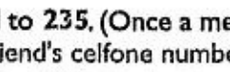
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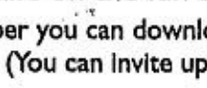
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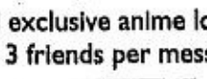
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To Get Fushigi Yugi...	Key In...
Logo List of Keywords	LOGO FY and send to 235
Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 235
Group Graphics List of Keywords	GROUP FY and send to 235
Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword> and send to 235
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC FY and send to 235
Picture Messages	PIC <keyword> and send to 235
Screen Savers List of Keywords	SAVER FY and send to 235
Screen Savers**	SAVER <keyword> and send to 235
Help on the Commands	HELP and send to 235

To Download Ringtones... Key in TONE <keyword> and send to 235. Choose from: FYTONE1 FYTONE2 FYTONE3 FYTONE4

*Available on selected Nokia handsets only **Available on Nokia 3310, 3330 & 8250

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Logos, picture messages, group graphics and ringtones are P12.00 each. All other text messages are P2.50 each.

SundayBIZ
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Her monthly pay was barely enough to cover her rent

CORITO Singson is the first Filipino head of Tupperware. Inset shows photo just before she joined the direct selling firm.

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

TWO months after working as a recruiting assistant for Banco Filipino, a foreign bank offered to double Corito G. Singson's salary.

She recalls that her first employer was paying her P400 a month and the bank offered P800. She was prepared to accept but on her way to the interview she casually asked the elevator boy how much he was earning. He said P1,200 a month.

Singson, president, managing director and chief marketing officer of Tupperware Philippines, recalls with a laugh that she decided right there and then to stay on in her job even if it was not enough to pay for her monthly rent.

FIRST JOB

Singson says she had to rely on her mother to support her during her first months as a working woman.

"With my first paycheck, I bought a Thermos for my Mom, so she could easily have coffee anytime at school. She was a teacher," she recalls.

"My Mom paid for my board and lodging expenses, which cost about as much as my salary," she adds.

Her mom was willing to contribute because she wanted her daughter to enjoy similar accommodations as she was enjoying when she was still studying at St. Paul College of Manila where Corito was an "interna."

"When I received my permanent appointment (six months after), I was granted living allowance.

HER / B4

THESE chickens can grow to the size of a turkey.

Green chicken revives Filipino taste for native

BY ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MALINAO, Albay—The green revolution is sweeping the Bicol Region anew, buoyed up by the bid of its local government officials toward achieving self-sufficiency and food security.

The move, according to Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara, newly appointed Regional Development Council chair, means not only improving the productivity of the region's traditional crops of rice, coconut and root crops, but also developing nontraditional food sources.

"Knowing fully well that the No. 1 problem in the (Bicol) region is the lack of nutrition, we have looked far beyond our province to seek revolutionary products and methods," Bichara said.

Among the efforts that have gone past the development phase in Albay province, is the aggressive planting of vast tracts of deforested areas and idle lands to a new breed of pili trees, which promises to boost the pili confectionery industry.

The others include the commercial planting of the upland areas to various vegetables and other crops traditionally raised in Baguio and the Northern Luzon regions; and raising practical and economic livestock hybrids.

Voracious grass eater

Interestingly though, what is sweeping the fancy of most people in the region now is the green chicken (*Gallus gallus domesticus*), the hybrid native chicken.

Inside each of several 5 by 5 meters of cyclone wire-fenced chicken coops in the 10-hectare compound of the Livestock and Poultry Production Training Center in Barangay Parapoto in Malinao, Albay, are about half a dozen of various breeds of green chicken, which looks like anything but ordinary native chicken.

They are as big as turkeys and are as voracious eaters of grass as their carabao neighbors not far from their tree-lined coops.

Gregorio Prele, resident poultry caretaker, said there are six varieties currently available: black astrolorp, red Taiwan-cross sassu, white cornish, white rock, bared Plymouth rock and New Hampshire.

Regardless of their varying breeds, origins and physical features, they are commonly called "green chicken" because of their unique characteristic as voracious eaters of grass, insects and other nutrients naturally available in the soil.

"For which reason, instead of being placed in confined cell-like structures commonly done with other poultry, fully grown green chickens are "ranged" so much like cattle grazing on grassland," Prele said in the Bicol dialect.

Enormous savings

Trained in raising the green chicken at the Bureau of Animal Industry's National Poultry Research and Development Center in Tiaong, Quezon, Prele said this fowl can grow up to 7 to 8 kilos in five to eight months if fully supported with adequate feeds.

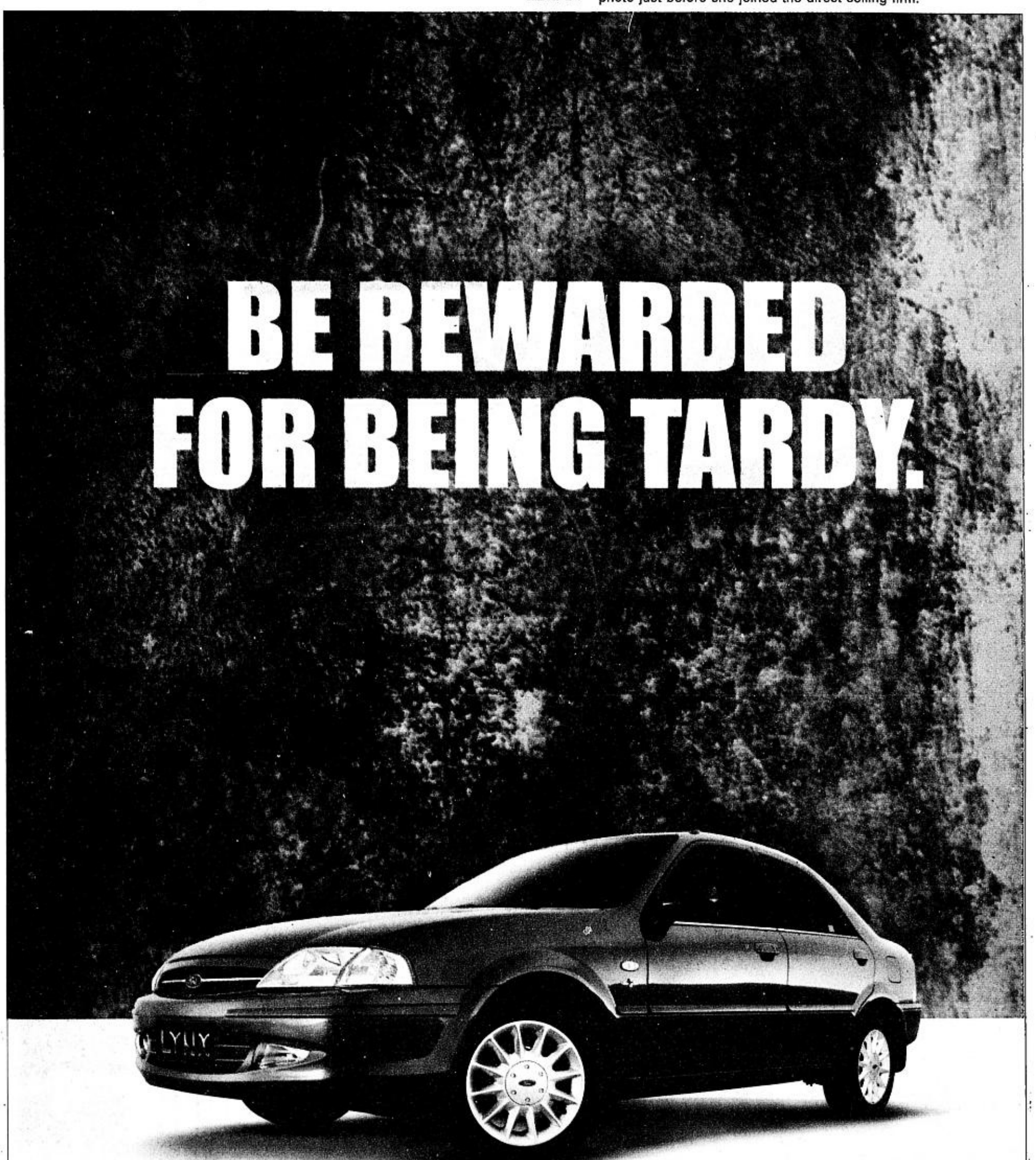
The price of chicken in the local markets ranges from P100 to P110 per kilo.

He said that compared with the 45-day variety, which is totally dependent on prohibitively-priced commercial feeds and drugs, only 25 percent of the green chicken's diet supplement consists of rice, corn and other cereals or an equivalent commercially available growing mass given twice daily.

Very little, if at all, antibiotics and other drugs are necessary because like the native one, the green chicken is more resistant to common lethal fowl diseases like the "rabia" or Newcastle disease.

Enormous savings on feeds, drugs and hous-

GREEN/B5



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IN YOUR FACE BY L. P. LEVISTE

SKYCABLE first got the subscribers' ire when it suddenly dropped the Discovery Channel. Now, it has dropped the Star TV channels that include ESPN and Star World. It's a big headache for SkyCable president Carlos Tria to do damage control. Can he keep subscribers from jumping ship?

MARKETING personnel of UK-based RS Components explains to clients the features of their latest products and services during the three-day Philtronics Exposition held recently at the World Trade Center. The RS Components booth was among those that attracted the most attention and inquiries from amongst the expo visitors.

A CEO's view: How to fight for your brand

"Brand Warfare"
By David F. D'Alessandro
McGraw-Hill, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

NOONTIME comes, you are alone, and you decide it's time to have a quick lunch. You mentally survey your myriad choices, then rule them out one by one—because you decide to go to your favorite restaurant across the street.

In my case, while searching for a suitable angle for this review, I thought of lunch with two divergent thoughts: one, do it quick and get it over and done with; or two, spend an hour in a familiar corner to collect my thoughts and give them sharp focus. My choice was Hunter's Deli, a cozy restaurant with a European charm—designed to give one a touch of nature in the concrete jungle.

And since I was in the mood to get ideas on "branding," I asked the owner-operator if the "ambience" was by design or by accident. What she revealed was a noontime lesson on branding. Hunter's Deli was designed for the adventurous—those who want to try something new in European cuisine—with the feel of the woods to reinforce the message.

The constant inflow of expats, baby boomers and yuppies told me this is one "brand" that has succeeded in inspiring loyalty from its market segment.

That is precisely what the book, "Brand Warfare," is saying: "The truth is that consumers need brands, both good and bad, to help them navigate a world in which their choices are almost infinite. The best thing that can happen to a brand is to become a kind of shorthand in consumers' eyes for a host of great qualities that demand their loyalty and respect."

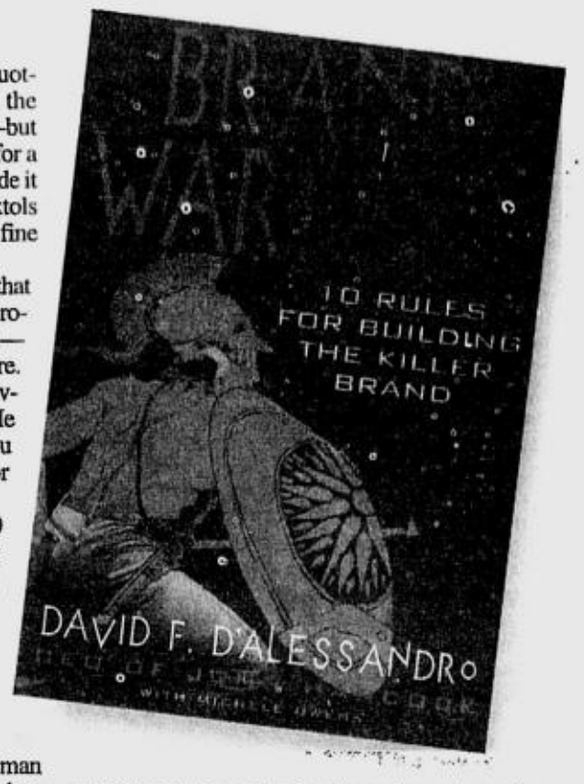
The book is sub-titled "10 Rules for Building the Killer Brand," and you would expect perhaps a ho-hum list of laws that simply summarize tried and tested strategies. This book is certainly a cut above the rest. It is written by a highly successful CEO who made an insurance firm, John Hancock, an exciting and audacious (not the cooly professional) company—that soon led the New York Times to list it as one of the top 100 brands of the 20th century.

The book abounds with soundbites and quotable quotes—not because they bring to you the poetry and majesty of the English language—but because every statement is a wondrous vehicle for a rare insight from a successful CEO, who has made it clear that he tolerates no nonsense, but who extols superior ideas and does not withhold praises for fine business execution.

What makes listening to a CEO a rare treat is that you come face to face—not with a marketing professional with all the predictable marketing jargon—but with a top honcho who shows the big picture. He "connects" politics with marketing. He unravels the distributors' ploy to keep you hostage. He exposes some ad agencies' agenda to keep you spending your advertising dollar (or peso, in our case).

EXECUTIVE READ

"There's a sucker born every 30 seconds," he says of those selling sponsorhip ideas, paraphrasing American circus impresario P.T. Barnum who earlier gave the dictum: "There's a sucker born every minute." Don't get him wrong. D'Alessandro has actually used sponsorships to the hilt—and with great impact on his market share.



D'Alessandro was a hotshot public relations man before he became CEO, and so he uses "brand" when he means "reputation." In his mind, there is no distinction. A brand, he defines, is "whatever the consumer thinks of when he or she hears your company's name." Author Jack Trout would call this "positioning."

The author minces no words when he declares: "The best brand equals the best product."

He moves on to cover the 10 rules. For example, the first rule, "It's the Brand, Stupid," is a take-off from the winning political slogan of Bill Clinton, which ran: "It's the economy, stupid." Later in the book, the author illustrates two important branding warfare strategies of, yes, Clinton.

He illustrates the first tactic, "It's crucial to persuade people to think well of your company before you really need them to," by citing the "insulated Clinton brand" that has survived the Monica Lewinsky misadventure. In other words, a company, like Clinton, should have a reservoir of goodwill from which to get support when the going gets rough.

The second advice, "Don't allow your enemies to define you," is a respected public relations tenet that, in the mind of D'Alessandro, has been elevated as a trusted marketing weapon. He cites the case of Michael Dukakis whose character has been defined for him by antagonist George Bush. The latter won the electoral contest.

Predictably, the author uses his experience as CEO of Hancock and how he made it such a successful brand—and we don't begrudge him that. After all, reading him is like being with him at the board room—and seeing him tear apart mediocre ideas and hearing him bring out wisdom culled from the battlefield—with laconic lines like: "Brands cannot simply stand still"—and then enumerates for you brand names that have effectively become has-beens.

Readers, meet a consummate CEO who has victories in the marketplace to earn for himself at least your valuable reading time. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

Apec leaders trigger craze for silk jackets in China

BEIJING—The spectacle of 20 Pacific Rim leaders dressed in traditional silk jackets at a summit last week in Shanghai has set off a fashion craze in China.

After seeing US President George W. Bush and China's own Jiang Zemin, among others, line up in the flamboyant garments at the end of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit, many Chinese have decided they must have one too, the China Daily said.

"I should thank Apec," Wu Mengfan, a Beijing tailor who said he had seen sales soar in recent days, told the newspaper.

It is an annual tradition at Apec summits for the host country to design identical clothing for the leaders, although the reaction of fashion gurus to previous creations has often been decidedly mixed.

Both open-air markets and department stores have reportedly seen a significant rise in customers looking for traditional silk garments, often adorned with auspicious characters meaning "good fortune" or "longevity."

The paper attributed this directly to Apec, quoting Wu, the Beijing tailor, as describing how he had been visited by a steady stream of customers inquiring about "the kind of coat worn by the Apec leaders."

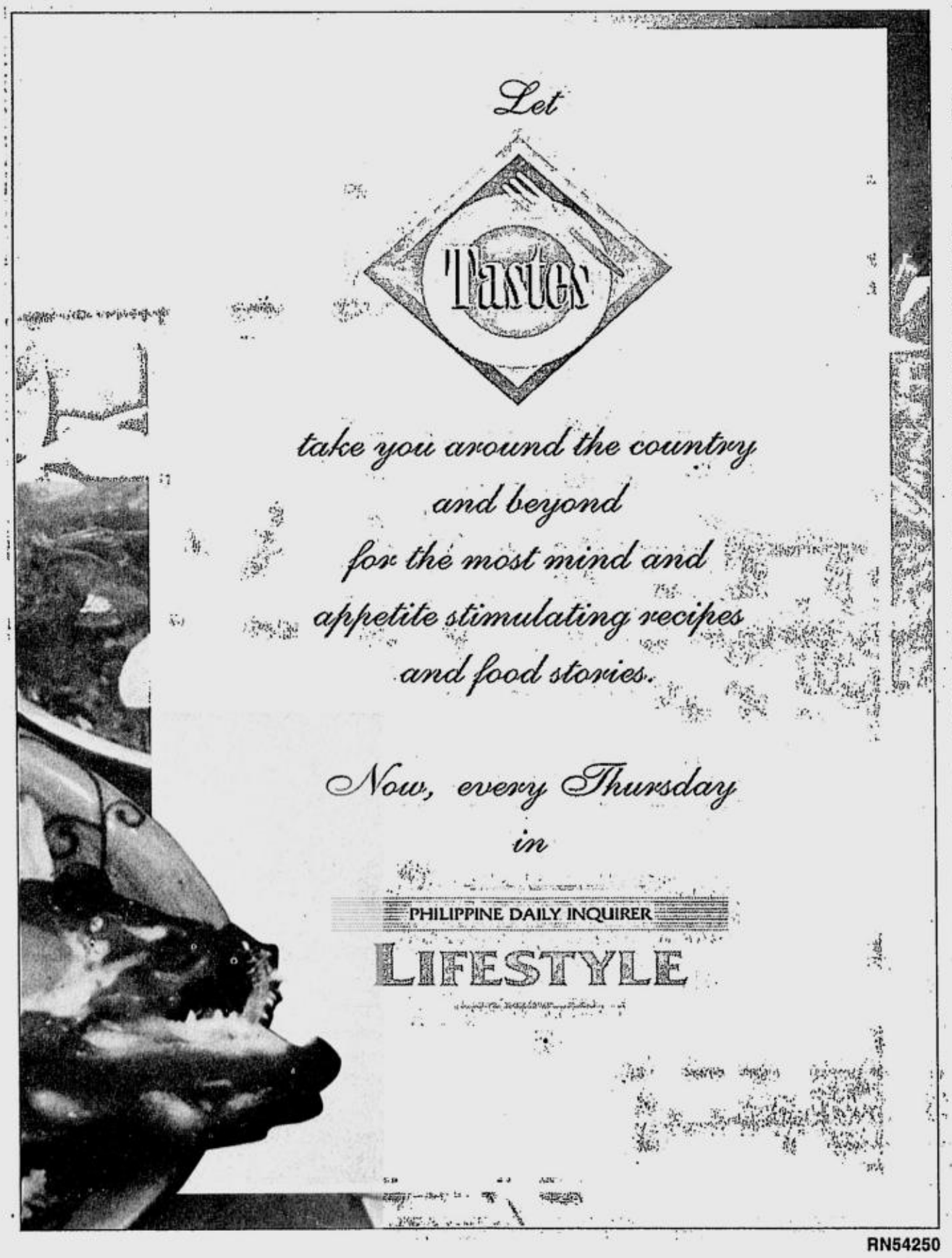
"The leaders putting on our traditional clothes seem to have brought home the charms of these clothes to many people," Wu said.

An executive at Beijing's Daxin Textile Shop told AFP interest in traditional silk attire has boomed since Monday, the day when Apec leaders appeared dressed up in the vivid colored jackets on newspaper front pages across the nation.

"Every day we sell about 200,000 yuan ($24,100) worth of silk cloth," she said. "Since every meter is about 50 yuan, that's 4 kilometers of silk a day."

She said the most noticeable difference from before the Apec meet was that now many more young people, and not just the elderly, seemed keen to wear the silk garments of their ancestors.

Although Apec may have played a role, the craze also indicates a "mature cultural concept" among the Chinese, Li Xin, an official with the China Fashion Designers' Association, told the paper. *AFP*



Retailers try to offer stress-free environment for holiday shopping

NEW YORK—Bergdorf Goodman will set up TV sets in its men's clothing department this holiday season, offer children's book readings and showcase home merchandise such as frames and candles on the first floor instead of the seventh.

Proffitt's, an upscale department store chain that's part of Saks Inc., will turn to soothing holiday classic tunes like "Winter Wonderland," instead of loud contemporary music. It's also focusing on merchandise such as comforters and big sweaters and downplaying structured clothing like suits.

And Intimate Brands' Bath & Body Works is training employees in sweetening their sales pitch of new offerings, including its spa and aromatherapy line.

Sales staff are now expected to engage shoppers in light conversation before demonstrating the merits of orange ginger oils and salt scrubs.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, many retailers are changing their holiday plans, hoping that a softer, more comforting approach will put consumers, who have been cutting their spending back for months, in the mood to buy once again.

Amid anthrax scares and fears of more terrorist attacks on US soil, retail executives acknowledge that consumers are jittery and that stores need to be more in sync with customers' needs.

"We want a more cozy Christmas. We want our customers to feel our store is a safe haven," said Robert Burke, vice president of fashion at Bergdorf Goodman.

"We just need to take the time to say 'hello.' Consumers are more sensitive these days," said Ken Montera, executive vice president of Bath & Body Works.

Other retailers including Target Stores Inc. and Home Depot Inc. said they are sticking to already-planned holiday strategies, which they feel are still appropriate. And teen retailer American Eagle Outfitters believes the holiday ad campaign it conceived last spring will resonate even more than expected with shoppers.

The retailer's "Get Together" campaign, which will begin in mid-November, shows an ethnically diverse group of young people at home sharing the holidays together.

Consumers are pulling away from big-ticket luxury items and other discretionary purchases, and more toward cocooning merchandise, as they retreat to their homes. Sales of knitting needles and other arts and crafts, as well as home decor have picked up at stores including Michaels Stores Inc.

Since the attacks, Americans have been eating more at home, spending more time with family and friends and leaving work on time, according to Arnold Worldwide, a Boston-based advertising agency, which has been surveying 1,000 consumers each week since mid-September.

All this translates to consumers wanting a higher standard of comfort when shopping, said Graceann Bennett, director of brand planning for Arnold Worldwide. "They're craving human contact, warmth in the stores," she said.

But will a warm and fuzzy approach encourage consumers to buy?

"It will certainly help, and allow parents, husbands, boyfriends to shop together, but it doesn't help the key consumer issue," said Burt Flickinger, III, a Westport, Connecticut-based retail consultant. "Consumers are tapped out. There are massive layoffs of high paying jobs and concern about looming layoffs," he adds.

Daniel Barry, a retail industry analyst at Merrill Lynch, forecasts that retailers will have the worst Christmas in 33 years, with total general merchandise sales up only 0.2 percent, compared with last year's 5 percent gain.

Same-store sales, or sales at stores open at least a year, for the 72 companies Barry tracks are projected to be down 0.8 percent for the holidays, compared to last year's modest gain of 1.4 percent.

"The terrorist attacks have created a 'bunker mentality' among consumers who are more centered on the home, shopping less often and spending less freely," Barry wrote in a report.

So far, some retailers are reporting some success with their new strategies. Bergdorf Goodman, which just began to offer refreshments in the store, finds customers are lingering longer—and buying.

And Sherman Oaks, California-based Fashion Square said it had a good turnout for a quilt-making project it put on. Marketing director Shana Yao said the mall hopes its free holiday classes on yoga and knitting, planned in the aftermath of the attacks, will get people to stay longer.

But merchants' fate probably lies with consumers like Heather Cole.

"Since Sept. 11, I wanted to be closer to my family and friends, and so when I go out to a store, I feel more vulnerable," said Cole, 25, from Boston. "I am looking for a higher level of comfort than I did before."

She doesn't want in-your-face selling tactics. "I want to be able to go to a toy store, for example, where there is product for you to play with," she said.

Still, a nicer shopping environment probably won't make her buy more, given her overall worries about terrorism and the economy. *AP*

Raising fish the condominium way

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Can people living in cramped housing areas in the country's cities and other urban areas culture freshwater prawn (*ulang*) and *hito* (catfish)?

With the "Urban Aquaculture Program," city dwellers can now have fresh supply of fish and earn some good money on the side.

But they should first have a 2.3 meters by 1.8 meters floor area and a source of fresh water, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center (BFAR-NIFTDC) here.

Westly Rosario, BFAR-NIFTDC chief, said their agency has launched the "Urban Fish (UrFish) 14D condo model," which is composed of 14 200-liter metal drums. The UrFish condo model is designed for people who want to culture fish even in cramped and limited spaces in cities.

He said two drums are welded together to ensure water tightness. The 14 drums make seven culture chambers with a total water volume of about 2,800 liters.

The welded drums are stacked in three levels using a fabricated metal frame, with three chambers at the first level or its base.

There are two chambers each in the second and third levels. The facility comes with mechanical and biological filters in the outlet piping system, a filter box on the top level and a settling trough in the ground level.

The continuous flow and recycling of water using a submersible pump serves as the life support of the unit.

Fish raising

Rosario said there are three ways of raising fish in the 14D condo model—the single species-single age fish, the single species-multi-age fish and the multi-species.

For commercial operation, the "single species-single age" fish may be adopted since harvesting in big volumes is ensured. It is also convenient compared to the other culture systems since only a single species is raised.

If the purpose is to have fish supply on a regular basis (weekly or even daily), the BFAR recommends the single species-multi age technique which allows more efficient use of the life support systems and water change.

The culture chambers are stocked with fish of different age groups that can be harvested at different times.

"A higher stocking density or higher daily growth performance can be attained from the stocked fish with this technique," Rosario said.

It is also possible to culture different species of fish without worrying about biological or culture problems because, although the water system passes through all the seven culture chambers, the different species of fish being cultured are separated.

"Each chamber is assigned with one species such as freshwater prawn or catfish. With the technique, a family can diversify," Rosario said.

'Ulang, hito'

The BFAR recommends two aquaculture species for culture in the condo model—the freshwater prawn (*ulang*) and the catfish.

Ulang (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) which feed on any available feed can be stocked at high density (400 juvenile prawn per chamber) and are easy to grow.

They feed three times daily on kitchen meat refuse, cooked entrails of chicken and fish and commercial fish feed. Fishery experts said they can earn from P180 to P250 when harvested after four months.

Ulang fry are available at the BFAR research center in Barangay Bonuan Binloc here.

RAISING/B5

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Smart card program surpasses 1 million

MASTERCARD International has announced that 1 million Multos multi-application smart cards have rolled into the region under its $2.99 chip program. The one million smart card milestone adds to the existing 3 million Multos cards already issued in the region.

MasterCard has also announced that it has joined GlobalPlatform, the first cross industry organization, to develop, manage and promote a standardized framework for multiple application smart cards. MasterCard joins existing members of GlobalPlatform to combine the interests of smart card issuers, vendors, industry groups, public entities and technology companies, to define global requirements and technology standards for multiple application smart cards. The significant new membership will boost GlobalPlatform's member total to 55 organizations—a figure it has achieved only two years since its inception in September 1999.

In Asia-Pacific, consumer demand for personalized "all-in-one" smart cards continues to increase at an unprecedented rate.

Philippines

The single largest purchase of the Multos (multi-application card operating system) multi-application smart cards to date has been from Mondex Philippines. Mondex Philippines ordered 500,000 smart cards in April 2001 with plans to roll out a Mondex card set to become the country's first all-in-one card to incorporate numerous applications on the card, including: ID Cosmosbank (identification), security and access for school/government offices/private firms and loyalty programs.

Korea

The latest order of 300,000 Multos smart cards was made by Mondex Korea in a cooperative effort with Kookmin Bank Credit Card Co. Ltd., a division of Kookmin Bank, one of the largest banks in Korea and KTF (Korea Telecom Freetel), a telecommunications provider.

Taiwan

In May 2001, Cosmosbank Taiwan ordered 100,000 smart cards. In collaboration with MasterCard International and Core Pacific City, Cosmosbank issued the first for smart card in Taiwan that complies with the EMV international standard for smart cards. Cosmosbank has since placed an additional order of 200,000 smart cards bringing the total to 300,000. Cosmosbank expects to place another additional order of 200,000 smart cards in the near future.

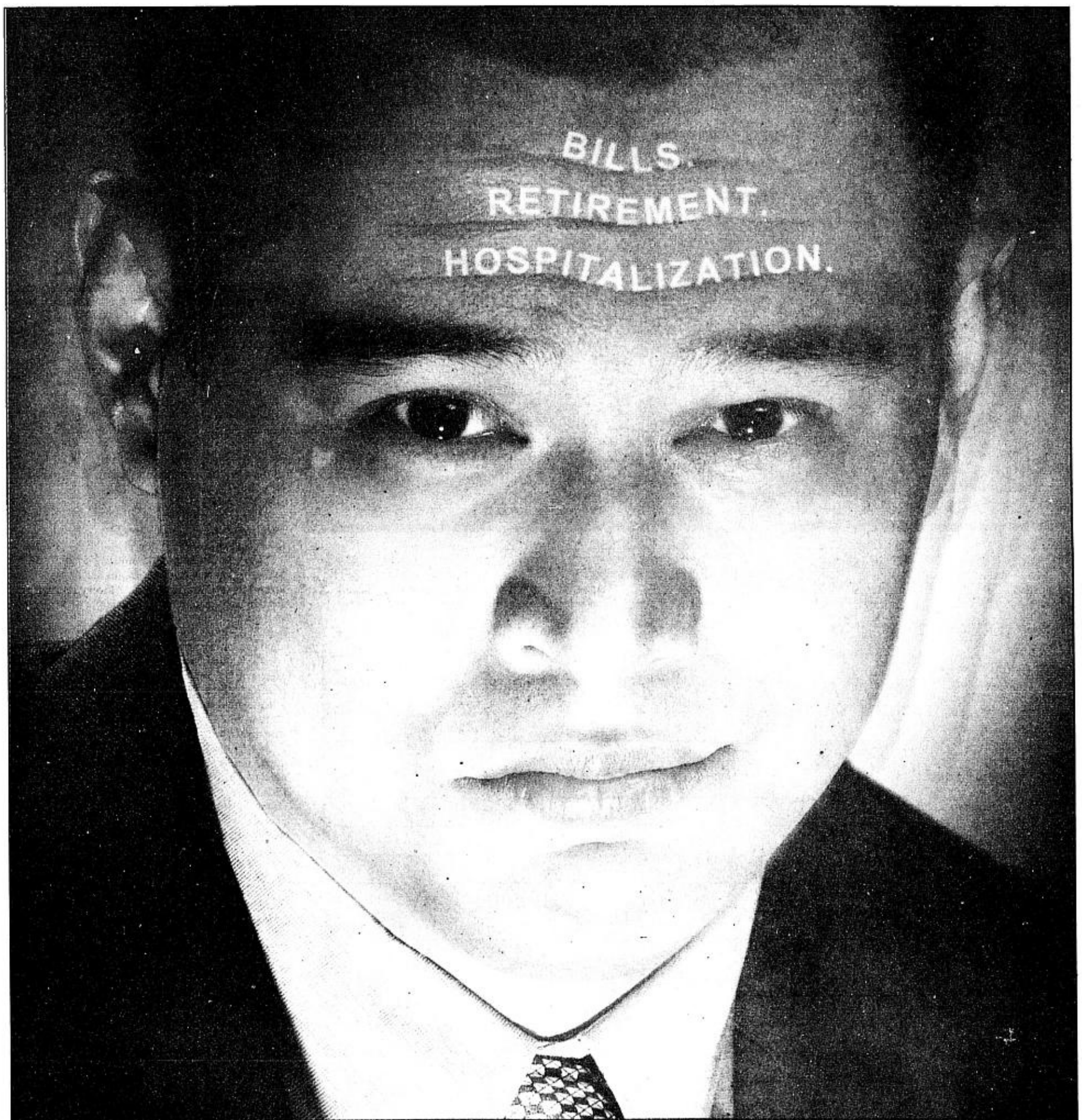
"MasterCard recognizes the need for a multi-application smart card program that combines cost efficiency, superior technology, security and personalization in order to facilitate smart card deployment. MasterCard is dedicated to making it easier and less expensive for members to deploy multi-application smart cards," said Jeff Portelli, MasterCard International, senior vice president, product delivery group Asia/Pacific.

Portelli added, "Multos continues to represent the most complete, robust, and secure smart card operating system available today. The Multos architecture was designed explicitly for smart cards, and all of its components are smart card optimized. Its comprehensive security is woven throughout the whole architecture."

According to Art Kranzley, chief e-Business officer, MasterCard International, MasterCard's entry to GlobalPlatform is in response to the growing desire of the company's members to have maximum flexibility when initiating smart card programs of their own. "MasterCard is dedicated to creating a universal platform and infrastructure that will make it easier and less expensive to deploy multi-application smart cards on a global basis. By joining GlobalPlatform, MasterCard is now in a position to help guide the future direction of GlobalPlatform's operational framework and to look for ways to expand the functionality of this specification to support Multos."

MasterCard is the only global payments association to actively support all major smart card environments, and is interested in working with GlobalPlatform members and committees to broaden the scope of GlobalPlatform to support Multos, and add it to the existing GlobalPlatform support for JavaCard, and Windows Powered Smart Cards.

"We are delighted to welcome MasterCard as the latest member of GlobalPlatform," said Steve Brown, chair of GlobalPlatform and head of business development at BT Ignite eBusiness. "We believe that bringing together GlobalPlatform's existing specifications and road map with MasterCard's experience with Multos and multi-application smart cards, can result in enhanced, convergent industry standards."



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SINGSON pursued the introduction of BeautiControl in the Philippines.

Her monthly pay was barely enough to cover her rent

(From page B1)

So I told her that I could cover these expenses. But I moved to simpler (and cheaper) arrangements with three of us friends in a room," Singson relates.

The year was 1971, the Beatles just broke up and Singson was a 20-year-old. She had just finished her AB Psychology and Journalism degrees.

"Although I tried to be economically independent as soon as I could, my mom would give me her support in various ways . . . shopping money, round trip airfare to go home for vacation, a box full of my favorite food, piano lessons . . . an open mind, a lending ear, a big heart, open arms. In my own way, I tried to reciprocate but she could never be outdone. She did this all her life. I was her only child!" she says.

Singson stayed with the Banco Filipino group of companies for over a decade moving up the corporate ladder very quickly. She was an AVP at 26. Its bank then was the biggest savings bank in the country.

In BF, Singson, was involved in the very memorable marketing campaign—"*Subok na matibay, subok na matatag.*"

During her early years, she also managed to squeeze in an MBA from the University of the Philippines.

But her husband, Mamerto, had other plans and in 1982, then already the VP and COO of the BF Homes Commercial Center, she quit BF to go with her husband and three children to Hawaii and start an import business.

They stayed for several years after which they moved back to Manila. There was even a time when she became a full-time mother. She did not know that her true destiny still lay ahead.

It was her husband who introduced her to sales. He met the HR head of Tupperware while waiting for a flight to Cebu and he told him about Corito.

Her husband must have seen the superb saleswoman in Corito and prompted her to look into it. His vision for his wife soon came true.

She started as a dealer for three months and became one of Tupperware's top agents. She was immediately made into a sales trainor and was assigned as part of the set-up team.

She established 20 distributorships including one in Bandung, Indonesia. Singson's task involved opening new markets for Tupperware in Asia. This included Indonesia, Taiwan and Thailand.

She relates that when she was conducting the training in Indonesia, she spoke in Bahasa without understanding a word.

"I was lucky because I had a brother-in-law who knew how to speak Bahasa so I asked him to write my talk in Bahasa and I read it," she recalls. "We even sang songs in Bahasa."

But soon after she sank her feet into Tupperware, Singson lost her husband.

"My husband died of heart attack. We were at Matabungkay beach, playing with the children when he had chest pains. Together with the doctor and nurse of the resort, we rushed him to the hospital but he did not make it.

My world crumbled! But I had to keep going, for the sake of the children," she relates.

SHE said her world crashed when her husband died but she raised her brood and built a successful career.

And keep going she did.

Today, Singson heads one of the country's biggest direct selling firms which ranks as the sixth largest, in terms of sales, among the 100 countries where Tupperware operates.

The Philippines' ranking moved from eighth to sixth during Singson's term.

Singson's monthly pay is a far cry from her starting salary 30 years ago. Today, she is able to support three children studying abroad—Iris, 23, is taking up her Masters in Economics at the University of Delaware, while working for a big credit card firm; Karen, 20, is taking up her MBA at Florida; while 19-year-old Mert is taking up International Hotel and Restaurant Management in London.

She jokingly says her children actually earn more than her.

Singson says she is happy where she is. Her colleagues describe her style of managing as very matriarchal.

She is very close to her people, including her distributors, six of whom have been with Tupperware for over 30 years. (Tupperware has been in the country for 35 years and the first distributor was former Tourism Secretary Antonio Gonzales.)

Singson's life right now revolves around Tupperware and like a good mother, she hopes to continue to nurture the direct selling firm and make it the biggest in the country.

SINGSON as a very ballerina

FULL-TIME with only son Mert.

CORITO Singson with her parents.

Watch out Avon, here comes BeautiConrol

TUPPERWARE Philippines' president Corito G. Singson's sales and marketing prowess is going to be put to a test as she launches BeautiControl Cosmetics, a direct selling US firm of beauty products which Tupperware in the US bought last year.

HEATH

Singson, an Agora awardee for outstanding achievement in marketing management, aggressively pushed to make the Philippines the second market where the products are available. Mexico was the first.

The introduction of BeautiControl will make Tupperware compete head-on with Avon Philippines, the current No. 1 direct selling cosmetics firm in the market.

Avon is also headed by a woman, Malou Dy-Buncio, the first female head of Avon.

Singson is the first non-expat managing director and president of Tupperware. And the first female.

BeautiControl aims to set itself apart from the other cosmetics firm as it is selling image, according to a letter of its chair, Jinger L. Heath.

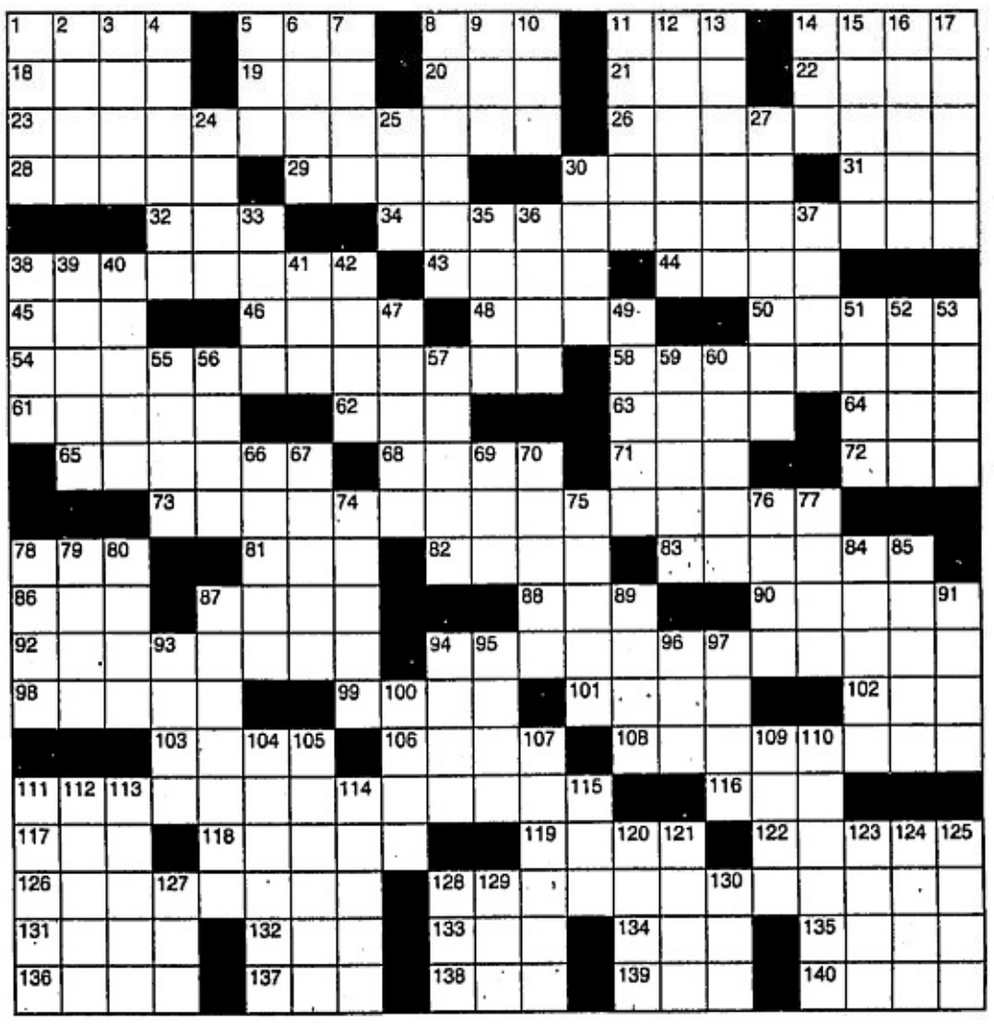
Singson explains the move to buy BeautiControl was due to the similarity of its marketing strategy with Tupperware—direct selling via parties.

BeautiControl's scheme is to first analyze the personality of a person before it recommends the products to be used.

The price tags are slightly higher than some of Avon's products but these are all made in the US. Avon manufactures most of its products in the country through its huge plant in Laguna.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

SOMETHING'S FISHY



ACROSS

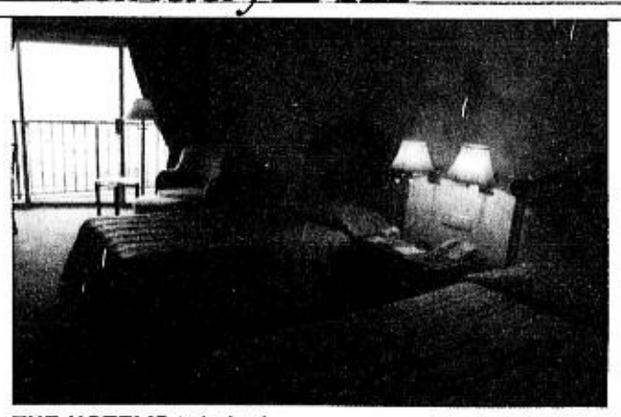
1 Strikebreaker
5 Suffix with spat
8 Salon supply
11 Research site
14 Blind as —
18 — Romeo
19 Word with pack or rug
20 Generation
21 Air-quality org.
22 Pedestal part
23 Fishy actress?
26 Dignified
28 "— Gay"
29 Jannings or Gilels
30 "— Man" ('78 song)
31 — kwon do
32 Quiche ingredient
34 Fishy outlaw?
38 Bucolic
43 James of "Brian's Song"
44 Jacob's twin
45 A mean Amin
46 "Nabucco" number
48 Neighbor of Niger
50 Alcove
54 Fishy film?
58 Future
61 Submarine finder
62 — Tse-tung
63 Lurid Lugosi
64 Chest protector
65 Funt apparatus
68 Supreme leader?
71 Parka part
72 Southern constellation
73 Fishy physician?
78 Use a phaser
81 Letter from Athens
82 "Mein —" ("Cabaret" tune)
83 C&W's Tubb
86 Seville shout
87 Whirl
88 Actor Tognazzi
90 Cairo creed
92 Collegiate sport
94 Fishy TV show?
98 Crooked
99 French couturier
101 Dashboard feature
102 Cpl.'s superior
103 Border on
106 Bucket
108 Photo
111 Fishy writer?
116 Squirrel's snack
117 Author LeShan
118 Bell town
119 Pinza or Chaliapin
122 School tool
126 Chunky pasta
128 Fishy novel?
131 Nixon or Johnson
132 "Foucault's Pendulum" author
133 Chicken — king
134 Cow's comment
135 Unusual
136 Common Market currency
137 DC figure
138 Palindromic diarist
139 Woolly one
140 Part of Micronesia

DOWN

1 Close as can be
2 Family
3 "The Mod Squad" hairdo
4 "Petrouchka," for one
5 Decorative vase
6 Like some excuses
7 Mighty mite
8 Medicinal plant
9 Self-esteem
10 Singer Dickey
11 Paul of "American Graffiti"
12 Cochise or Geronimo
13 Washes
14 Fuss and feathers
15 Swahili, e.g.
16 Dwight's competition
17 Fiddled (with)
24 Desdemona's enemy
25 Loon lips
27 '82 Toto hit
30 Sociable starling
33 Alum
35 Shoestring
36 Bolger/Haley co-star
37 Throw in the towel
38 Prepares cherries
39 — committee
40 Tuscan town
41 Pound sound
42 Neeson or O'Flaherty
47 Video game company
49 Exclude
51 Arnaz's country
52 It grows on you
53 Napoleonic site
55 Sleep in the woods
56 Hurler Hershiser
57 Booze
59 Brink
60 Glue guy
66 Runs around in circles?
67 Grate stuff
69 Vane dir.
70 Emulate Roy Clark
74 Like many bathrooms
75 Coaxed
76 "I'm working —"
77 Nuthatch's home
78 "Nana" author
79 "Oh, woe!"
80 Act like a chicken
84 Winter mess
85 Ballroom dance
87 Lake sight
89 Birdsong of basketball
91 Lauer or LeBlanc
93 Paper quantity
94 Actor Beery
95 Like a desert
96 Solo of "Star Wars"
97 King of comedy
100 — facto
104 Opens
105 Daze
107 Tripoli native
109 Knitting stitch
110 Little mouse?
111 Sock a shuttlecock
112 "Farewell!"
113 Light beer
114 Alliance
115 Put away a pickle
120 Any
121 Chilly powder?
123 Inventive sort?
124 Neutral tone
125 Stink
127 Mil. address
128 Critic's god?
129 President Bush was one
130 "The Gold Bug" author

ANSWER ON PAGE B3

GUESTS at the executive floors have exclusive use of the Executive Lounge where they can avail of food and drink throughout the day, including breakfast and cocktails.



THE HOTEL'S twin-bed rooms are equipped with coffee and tea-making facilities, businessman's desk, bedside control panel, mini-bar, and room safety features.

FOR those with a sweet tooth, there's the Deli Snack, a delicatessen and pastry shop with a wide assortment of cakes and pastries.

Making execs think Century when in the bay area

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

THE CENTURY Park Hotel was one of the hotels built in 1976 for the IMF-WB Conference held in Manila.

Today, 25 years later, the Century Park remains one of the most sought after hotels by executives doing business in the bay area.

The extensive buffet at the Café at the Park with over 150 selections is one of its main attractions, along with its signature restaurant, the Century Seafood Restaurant. Unkai, the Japanese restaurant, is also well-known.

Century Park is affiliated with the All Nippon Airways, the biggest airline in Japan with over 100 subsidiaries and 46 domestic hotels.

This affiliation with the ANA group keeps Century Park abreast with the latest developments in the global hospitality industry and at par with the highest standards, says Century Park general manager Bobby Carpio.

Carpio says in an interview that the five-star deluxe hotel gets its business mostly from the tourist groups, accounting for as much as 40 percent of its revenues. About 30 percent are local travelers and another 30 percent are corporate and long-staying guests.

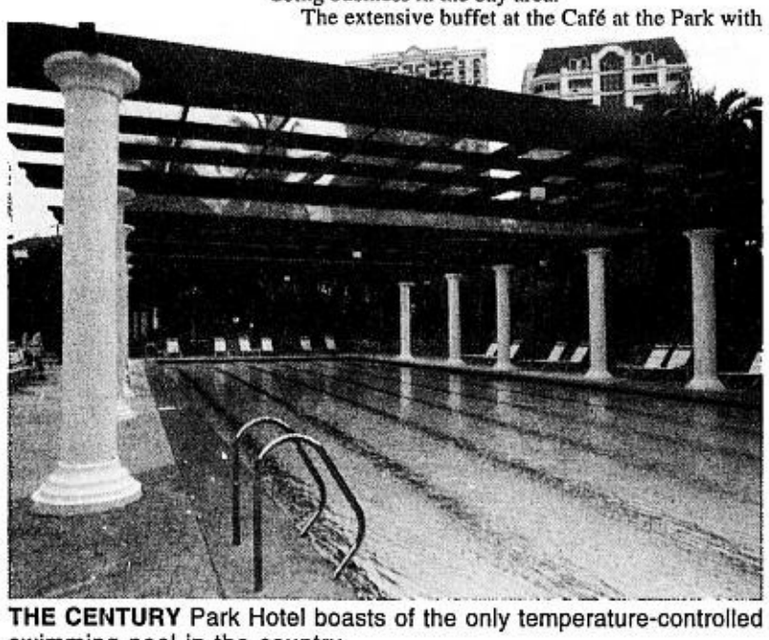
Most of the foreign guests are Japanese nationals, and others are mostly Arabs.

But with the global economic downturn and the significant decrease in the number of foreigners coming to the country, Century Park has trained its sights on getting more of the local market.

These include drumming up support from the manufacturing companies to hold their meetings and conventions at the hotel, and convincing families to try going to a hotel instead of a resort for a weekend of relaxation.

"One advantage that we have is that we have an arrangement with the Rizal Memorial wherein guests can use the track and other sports facilities," Carpio says.

Century Park also boasts of having the only temperature-controlled swimming pool in the country with separate facilities for children and adults. Century Park will soon open its outdoor jacuzzi to the public.



THE CENTURY Park Hotel boasts of the only temperature-controlled swimming pool in the country.

THE 24-HOUR buffet at the Café at the Park serves Continental and Asian food to satisfy different tastes. PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

For executives, Century Park has an executive floor with a separate lounge where guests can do their express check-in and check-out. It comes complete with 24-hour butler service.

"We are also one of the first in the industry with serviced apartments, this is why we have a lot of long-staying guests," Carpio says.

He explains that times are difficult for the hotel industry these days because of the slowdown in the world economy. Century Park uses this time to do research and look at new ways and means to bring in guests, especially those who are doing business in the Manila area.

At the end of the day, what the Century Park wants is for people and travelers to think Century Park when they think of the bay area.

Raising fish . . . (From page B3)

Catfish can also be adopted using the "condo culture." They can grow at very high stocking density since they use atmospheric oxygen, Rosario noted.

An electronic life support system may not be critical in the culture system, especially during power failures. The cultured fish eat anything like kitchen refuse, stale bread, fish entrails and fish feed.

The imported species, such as the African *hito*, grows very fast, Rosario said.

The catfish can be stocked at 400 to 600 pieces per chamber and can be harvested after four or five months.

Costs

The 14D condo unit would cost P42,810 but this would be a one-time investment.

The production cost for catfish (five months culture) is P25,660, broken down in the cost of fingerlings (3,500 fingerlings bought at P1 each), P3,500; 15 bags of fish feed at P400 each, P6,000; water, P500; electricity, P6,975; labor (19 man days at P200 a day), P3,800; and depreciation cost, P4,810.

The return of investment would be after two culture seasons or less than a year, BFAR studies showed.

"Out of the 3,500 fingerlings, we can produce 875 kg of catfish valued at P80 per kilo. The gross sales is P70,000 so the net profit is P44,340," Rosario said.

For *ulang* or freshwater prawn, the production cost (four months culture) is P21,090.

From the seven chambers, a family can harvest 140 kilos, equivalent to P35,000 (P250 a kilo). The net profit would be P13,910 and return of investment would be after two years.

Rosario said the condo model has several advantages over other facilities designed for urban aquaculture.

One is that the shape of the drums allows effective water circulation and easy removal of waste by siphoning. Water distribution and filtration is also enhanced.

The condo model can also accommodate greater volume of fish compared to the horizontally arranged models.

"We can also raise different species because the culture chambers are separate. Culture of different fish age groups for a year round harvest can be adopted using the model," Rosario said. ***With reports from Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Green chicken . . . (From page B1)

ing costs alone have hiked the demand for this chicken.

Prele said that the green chicken is commercially viable, not only for its meat but also for its eggs—with light brown shell and deep yellow colored yolk—both of which taste like those of a native chicken, only much bigger.

The green chicken, like its smaller native cousin, normally lays at least one large-sized, light brown-shelled egg every other day during the first two years after maturity.

Chicks on sale

Bichara said the enormous potential of the green chicken as a cheap source of nutrition for all Bicolanos not only helps promote food self-sufficiency but also boosts the meager local government's revenue.

Since January until September this year, it has generated some P50,000 from the sale of month-old chicks priced at P70 each.

The popularity of raising green chicken has also generated interest among other local governments and private entrepreneurs in the region, ranging from the backyard raisers to the big commercial investors.

"Besides it does not depend heavily on the availability of high-priced commercial feeds," Bichara added.

Mindanao, the chief source of corn and other livestock feeds in the country, has reported a continuous production decline mainly because of the unsettling events in the region.

Only on its fifth year after its introduction into the province, the green chicken has encouraged the local government to invest in the development and promotion of some other equally promising livestock like the pogo, Bengala, sheep, goose and bantam chicken.

Satisfied customer

"I was so amazed by the unique features of the green chicken and the economic advantages of raising it so that I did not have a second thought about buying an initial dozen chicks," said Fredie Rosaros, a commercial photographer in Legazpi City.

Rosaros, who confessed to sometimes doing the marketing and cooking at home himself, said that the scarcity of the native chicken and the popularity of the 45-day one have virtually erased the uniquely Bicolano taste for the real *pinakulaw na manok* (chicken cooked in coconut milk) or the *maharang na tinola* (chicken brew heavily spiked with ginger and sili).

"Try it yourself partner, *'oragon talaga'*," he added convincingly.

Of course the *isaw* (chicken intestine), the *adidas* (feet), and the *helmet* (head) will be bigger and perhaps tastier.

The green chicken certainly guarantees food and native taste on the table.

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Making employees think like owners

THIS may very well be the key to survive the ongoing economic crisis. During this time when every organization is facing great difficulties, the key is to have every member of the organization think and act like an owner of the company.

Fred Smith said, "The difference between a good organization and a bad organization is the structure. The difference between a good organization and a great organization is emotional motivation." What is emotional motivation? Where does it come from? How is it developed in people? These are critical questions that human resource developers are seeking answers to.

On Nov. 14-16, the Philippine Society for Training and Development (PSTD) is holding its 2001 National Convention at the Holiday Inn Clark with the theme: "Towards Developing an Intrapreneurial Learning Organization." The convention aims to answer the questions on emotional motivation and how to develop this in people.

An intrapreneur is a person in your organization that has an owner's frame of mind. It's a person who cares for and is fully engaged in the active pursuit of the organization's objectives. For example, non-intrapreneurs may be more inclined to protect functional areas, pursue self-interest and approach a business from a parochial point of view. Intrapreneurs transcend functional boundaries. Intrapreneurs focus on the business results of their actions and often initiate improvement within the organization.

To help promote a deeper understanding of Intrapreneurship, PSTD has invited a roster of both local and international speakers from the field. The keynote speech will be given by Representative Eduardo Zialcita, and DOLE Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas will share her experiences on the first plenary session. Some speakers lined up for the convention are David James Lamotte Sr., EMD specialist of ILO-Seapat, Christopher Prior, adviser of Countryside Entrepreneurship Development Program (CEDP), Deepak Adhikary, adviser of Swiss Contact, Nanette Villanueva, executive director of Philippine CEFENetwork, Vic Magdaraog, e-learning expert of SGV-DDI, professor Quintin Tan of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, Lirio Mapa, VP of Center for Leadership and Change Inc., and Tommy de Leon, program director of Ateneo Graduate School of Business.

A great treat for the participants of the convention will be the exhibit. Showcased are companies and organizations that offer the latest technologies and developments for the training professional. The convention will also provide the venue for the election of the new set of officers of the society. Important new developments that will have profound impact on PSTD will also be announced.

For those interested in knowing more of how to transform an organization of employees to an organization where everyone is an "owner", call the PSTD Secretariat at 890-2513 and 890-2823, or e-mail pstd@pacific.net.ph.

PAG-IBIG CEBU RELEASES HIGHEST PROVIDENT CLAIM

Pag-Ibig Fund Cebu Regional Office (CRO) recently released to Eugenio E. Magallanes Jr. (second from left) the amount of P122,447.45, the highest provident benefit claim proceeds in the region to date. Magallanes opted to upgrade his monthly contributions and had the luck of having his employer match his savings. Because of bigger contributions, he was able to avail of a bigger multi-purpose loan. Magallanes is also a beneficiary of the Expanded Housing Loan Program of Pag-Ibig Fund and is on his 9th year of regular amortization. Magallanes, an employee of Philippine Ports Authority, is on his second Pag-Ibig membership. Shown is Magallanes together with Pag-Ibig president and CEO Manuel C. Crisostomo (extreme left) and the board of trustees (third from left) Erlinda Santos-Marquez, Elisa Chongco-Alejo, Elvin Hayes Nidea, Jeremias Paul Jr. and Alexander Hilario Aguilar.

INFO MANAGEMENT COURSES AT APC

Jupiter Systems Inc. (JSI) and Asia Pacific College (APC) have partnered to offer business focused information management courses to post graduate and undergraduate students. The partnership brings together JSI's business process expertise and APC's academic excellence in IT as well as its strong industry ties. Shown are (standing, from left) JSI AVP for corporate planning Elaine Chan, APC director for marketing Jennifer Tuason-Amihan and APC assistant program director Jerald Dela Rosa, (seated from left) JSI VP for consulting services Noel Bernardo, JSI president Fermin Taruc, APC president Dr. Paulino Tan and APC program director Elmer Cruz.

ACCOUNTING FIRM INAUGURATES NEW OFFICE

Dr. Conchita L. Manabat (center), managing partner of C.L. Manabat & Co., the Philippine member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (DTT), with Francisco 'Paco' Magsaysay (left), CEO of RMJ Group of Companies, Charles Harris (second from left) Deloitte Consulting Asia Pacific director of Human Resources, Roger Steel, (second from right), regional director, Asia Financial Services of Trowbridge Consulting, and Robert Campbell (right), managing partner of DTT Asia Pacific Region were among those who headed the office inaugural ceremony held recently at the 4th and 5th and 6th floors of Salamin Building located at 197 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

COMPETITIVE EDGE IN HMOS

Second Opinion Philippines and Value Care Health Systems, one of the leading health maintenance organizations (HMO) in the Philippines, recently inked a joint venture wherein Value Care will be offering the services of Second Opinion to its clients. This partnership is strongly viewed as a competitive edge for Value Care as its subscribers do not only have access to local health services and facilities. With Second Opinion, Value Care clients will be able to avail themselves of the services of the world's best doctors, specifically specialists from the University of California San Francisco Medical Center and from Stanford University. Shown (from left) are Antonio Cabusao, sales director, A.V. Ocampo Insurance Associates; Dr. Isa Gomba, medical director, Second Opinion Philippines; Jesus Torre, chief operating officer, Value Care Health Systems Inc.; Chian Callaghan, chair and CEO, Second Opinion Philippines; Robert Ocampo, vice president, A.V. Ocampo Insurance Associates Inc., and Gregorio C. Yumul, AVP-sales, Value Care Health Systems Inc.

SOFTEE'S NEW CELEBRITY ENDORSER

SCA Hygiene Products Corp., Europe's leading paper company and the makers of Softee Bathroom Tissue, recently signed an agreement with Rufa Mae Quinto to endorse its products. Shown are (fourth from right) Dominador Magbanua Jr., marketing director, with Rufa Mae and talent manager Boy Abunda (third from left). Witnessing the occasion were Rachelle Datuin and Debbie Yao of SCA and their business partners from Ace Saatchi & Saatchi.

Star City sparks excitement during the holidays

YOU don't have to wait for the holidays to let your hair down and have a good time with the whole family. Star City, the Filipinos' favorite theme park, swings its gates wide open for a preview of the spectacular surprises it has in store for both the young and the young at heart.

There are so many new and exciting additions to Star City's rides and attractions, there is no need to wait for a special occasion to celebrate. The holiday spirit begins the moment you step in. The country's pioneering theme park has been preparing extensively for major attractions and performances scheduled to open successively over the next few months.

For its opening salvo, Star City introduces two major walk-through thrillers guaranteed to keep you in suspended animation.

Be the star of your own favorite adventure movie and prepare for an exhilarating adrenaline rush. Dare to discover the secrets of "The Mummy"—a breathtaking, spine-tingling, blood-chilling masterpiece directed by no less than ace filmmaker Peque Gallaga.

Or, you can take your chances on conquering tyrannical reptiles at an era when dinosaurs ruled the world. The legendary T-Rex and his breed reign over the Jurassic Ice Park, where the challenge is to make your way through the freezing ice world under the menacing gaze of these gargantuan creatures.

"Circus d Ballet" will be a creative collaboration between Ballet Manila and an international Chinese circus group from all over the world. Circus d Ballet performances are scheduled to begin on Nov. 2.

Those who want adventure with no limits can purchase the "ride-all-you-can" pop tag for only P180 and go on a riding spree to their heart's content.

Star City's pre-holiday treat is open Fridays to Sundays from 4 p.m. onwards. Star City is conveniently located at the CCP Complex along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Coleman to the rescue

THERE are instances that happen unexpectedly, without warning, such as floods and power shortages. Isn't it a good idea to do something now than be caught unaware and find yourself with nothing to rely on during emergencies?

One tool that every household should have is a flashlight. When a blackout happens, it is the first thing that you reach for. That's why flashlights must be put in places where it can be easily accessed. Especially during rainy days, when power outages are common, it is important to have your flashlight ready and working.

There are times when power interruptions last longer than we expect. So, it is wise to have a rechargeable light handy and fully charged at all times. This tool will surely lighten up your home for a longer time.

Long power interruptions also pose the problem of keeping refrigerated food from spoiling. Having a chest or a beverage cooler will be of great help in keeping your food fresh.

In case of such emergencies, you can always rely on Coleman. With its wide range of flashlights and coolers, you can be sure you and your family are always prepared. Coleman flashlights feature convenience and durability in a wide range of styles and sizes. There is always a Coleman to fit your every need. It also redefines coolers--matching technology, innovation, and design to deliver lasting benefits.

Coleman Flashlights and Coolers are exclusively distributed by Focus Global Inc. To see the full line of Coleman products, you can visit any of the Coleman branches located at Robinsons Galleria (2nd Level Expansion Mall), SM Megamall (5th Level, Building B), Park Square I in Makati (ground floor), and Alabang Town Center (Level C Expansion).

SEARCH FOR THE BEST VOICE IN RP

Sunrise Entertainment, SM Supermalls, Genetic Computer Institute, and UK Derm Pharma present the Voice of the Philippines 2001 Search for Singing Stars Inter High School competition, which already started its final elimination mall tour last Sept. 21. Staff and participants were at SM Fairview wherein representatives of University of Santo Tomas, Jose Fabella Memorial School and Roosevelt College Marikina were picked by the judges to join the grand finals. The second final elimination mall tour was held Sept. 29 at SM Bacoor. Cavite representatives St. Michaels Institute, St. Peregrine School and Del Pilar Academy were chosen. The third final elimination mall tour was held at SM North Edsa last Oct. 5 and representatives of Ramon Magsaysay High School, Tangos High School, Navotas and St. Isabel College, were qualified. The last final elimination mall tour was on Oct. 20 at SM Southmall. Shown are three of the finalists. The 12 official finalists will compete in the grand final on Nov. 29 at SM Trade Hall in Manila. Major sponsors of the events are Tretorn Shoes, UK Derm Pharma, Country Style Donuts, Ricky Reyes Chains of Salon, Flower Collection, Bunny Jeans and Shirts, Frederick Alba for wardrobe, DM 95.5 official radio station and Philippine Daily Inquirer. For details call 632-7852 or call or text 0919-845-8518 and 0917-357-7754.

YASAY RISE E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS INC. DIRECTOR

RISE Group of Companies formalized its inclusion of lawyer Perfecto R. Yasay Jr., former chair of Securities and Exchange Commission, to its lineup of the board of directors. RISE E-Commerce Systems marked its grand launching recently with its Consumer Empowerment Program, directed towards poverty alleviation, economic improvement and the upliftment of the consumer's purchasing power by sharing the opportunity for each Filipino to have regular income and establish their own business. Shown is Yasay (left), Oscar Rafanan, RISE Business Center owner (center) and William A. Ferolino, president and chief executive officer of RISE Group of Companies.

'AUSTRALIA GETAWAY' PROMO

Body & Soul Inc., the exclusive distributor of Sanctum, Fudge Hair Care products, The Body Collection & Stuf recently launched the 'Australia Get Away' promo. All qualified customers will have the chance to win two roundtrip tickets to Sydney, Australia with 6-day/ 5-night hotel accommodation, Au$1,000 pocket money, P15,000 worth of Body & Soul products and other exciting prizes. Promo offer is available at Body & Soul counters located at all SM Health & Beauty outlets from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31. The promo is co-presented by Qantas Airways. Shown is Body & Soul's advertising and promotions manager Charmaine A. Neri (left) and Qantas Airways country manager; Honeybee Hubahib during the contract signing.

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To take advantage of this opportunity, Metro Manila candidates must personally apply immediately by submitting a comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcripts of records) board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs in:

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بروج Borouge

FINAL INTERVIEW WILL COMMENCE MID OF NOVEMBER 2001 AFTER COMPLETION OF SHORTLISTING OF CANDIDATES

is a joint venture between two corporate giants - the ABU DHABI NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (ADNOC), a leading petroleum company and BOREALIS, Europe's largest polyolefin producer, has recently built one of the most advanced petrochemical complexes in the Middle East, which costed about US $ 1.2 billion, the first significant downstream investment in the United Arab Emirates. BOROUGE business is polyethylene & ethylene, that is produced using the most advanced technology, superior knowledge and expertise. Its petrochemical complex will produce 450,000 tones of high grade polyethylene, commencing operations at the end of year 2001. For more information about the activities of BOROUGE, please log on to www.borouge.com . Qualified Filipinos are urgently required for the following positions:

AVAILABILITY MANAGER - PE / Harbor / MH (Code AM)

To ensure that all plant equipment and facilities required by the core operations of PE/Harbor/MH Unit are available, safe and ready to be operated when needed. To lead a cross-functional team to provide effective maintenance support to operations (including start-up). To safeguard correct standards in the preparation of of engineering specifications, maintenance programs/procedures and training. To participate in preparing safety and security rules. Responsible for equipment strategy in the plant and Reliability Centered Maintenance Programs.

The ideal candidate will have: degree in relevant Engineering discipline (Mechanical preferred) with minimum 12 years experience in the petrochemical industry in a senior staff function. Supervisory skills proven in demanding start-up conditions and in operational plants. Good maintenance and Engineering experience.

SUPPORT & COORDINATION OPERATION MANAGER (Code SCOM)

To provide technical support to Olefins production and Auxiliary / Utility facilities to ensure plants are enabled to produce targeted quantities to defined quality, safety and cost parameters, meeting internal and external customer needs and to ensure opportunities are identified and developed for the continuous improvement of the facility and its capabilities.

The ideal candidate will have: university degree in Chemical Engineering or related discipline with 10 years experience in the production area within a petrochemical plant, preferably Ethylene plant and utilities. Proven line management capability and ability to promote teamwork and forge and productive operating climate with a multi-cultural, multi-national workforce.

CONTROL SUPERVISORS (Code CS)

To lead the Control Technicians team and ensure timely, quality and safe installation, maintenance, repair and testing of a wide range of field instrumentation, DCS components, ESD and PLC in the plant. To participate in the long and short term maintenance planning process and continuous improvement as part of the cross-functional team.

The ideal candidate will have: university/college degree in Control or Electrical Engineering with minimum 8 years experience in Polyethylene and/or Ethylene plants or oil/ gas industry. Good knowledge of production facilities in an oil/gas or petrochemical industry and of installation, repair, testing and maintenance of wide range of systems including DCS (TDC3000), TMR EDS and PLC. Familiar with CMMS, preferably SAP. Knowledge in Hazardous areas classification and its installation. With good planning and supervisory skills.

MECHANICAL SUPERVISORS (Code MS)

To lead the Mechanical Technicians team and ensure timely, quality and safe installation, maintenance, repair and testing of a wide range of mechanical static and rotating equipment. To participate in the long and short term maintenance planning process and continuous improvement as part of the cross-functional team.

The ideal candidate will have: university/college degree in Mechanical Engineering with minimum 8 years experience in mechanical maintenance field within the petrochemical or oil/gas installation, repair testing and maintenance of a wide range of mechanical equipment. Familiar with CMMS, preferably SAP. With good planning and supervisory skills.

MECHANICAL TECHNICIANS (Code MT)

To carry out skilled installation, maintenance and repair of a wide range of mechanical rotating and static equipment in the operating plants and adhere to work specifications and HSE measures.

The ideal candidate will have: technical course graduates with minimum 6 years experience in the mechanical maintenance area in the petrochemical, oil or gas industry. Knowledge of production facilities, installation, repair, testing and maintenance of mechanical equipment.

BOROUGE offers the right candidates long term contracts which include attractive salary (tax-free), remote area allowance, shift allowances, free housing, furniture purchase allowance, local duty transportation, family status, educational assistance, free of interest car purchase loan, annual leave, baggage, insurance/medical benefits, free water & electricity. All employees shall be living in multicultural environment provided with all convenient social, recreational, schooling & health care facilities.

CRACKER DEPARTMENT OPERATION MANAGER (Code CDOM)

To work with the contractor during start-up and manage the Cracker facility on an ongoing basis to produce targeted quantities to defined quality, safety and cost parameters and to contribute to the continuous improvement of the facility and its capabilities.

The ideal candidate will have: university degree in Chemical Engineering or related discipline with 12 years experience in the operations area within a petrochemical industry, out of which 4 years should have been in operations management. Experience in Ethylene plant is prefered. Proven line management capability and ability to promote teamworking and forge and productive operating climate with a multi-cultural, multi-national workforce.

CONTROL ENGINEERS (Code CE)

To provide technical guidance and support in the maintenance, troubleshooting and failure analysis of a wide range of instrumentation and associated control systems. To review and participate in the design and development of related projects. To prepare Statement of Requirements for new projects.

The ideal candidate will have: relevant Engineering discipline with minimum 8 years experience in installation, maintenance and repair of a wide range of instrumentation and control systems in a petrochemical or oil/gas industry. Experience in Polyethylene and/or Ethylene plant is desired. Familiarity with CMMS, preferably SAP will be an added advantage. Ability to lead projects.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (Code ME)

To direct and supervise the installation, maintenance, repair, troubleshooting and modification activities carried out on a wide range of mechanical static and rotating equipment in the plant, including turbo machinery, gas and steam turbines, compressors, furnaces, heat exchangers, diesel generators, extruders, etc. To provide technical advice and guidance on all related maintenace works. To participate in the planning and implementation of all systems modifications, expansion and installations

The ideal candidate will have: degree in Mechanical Engineering or related discipline with 6 years work experience in the installation, commisioning, maintenance and repair of major rotating and mechanical equipment in a petrochemical, oil or gas plant. Experience in Crackers or PE plants is preferred. Familiarity with CMMS, preferably SAP is an advantage.

CONTROL TECHNICIANS (Code CT)

To carry out skilled installation, maintenance and repair of a wide range of field instrumentation, control room and rack rooms equipment (DCS, PLC and TMR ESD) in the operating plants and adhere to work specifications and HSE measures.

The ideal candidate will have: technical course graduates with minimum 6 years experience in instrumentation maintenance in petrochemical and/or oil/gas industry. Knowledge of Control facilities in petrochemical or oil/gas plants, repair, testing and maintenance of field & control room equipment. Awareness about Hazardous Area Classifications and installations and HSE policy. Knowledge of DCS TDC 3000 will be an advantage.

If you are willing to join a team of expatriate professionals, send your application URGENTLY with complete details of your career mentioning the above codes together with photocopies of your employment & school certificates and 2 pcs. passport size photos to:

IPAMS
Overseas Recruitment Div.
Accre. Cert. No. 61136

INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.
1455 Leon Guinto Sr St., 1004 Malate, Metro Manila, Philippines
Fax Nos. (632) 521 1189 / 521 1320 E-mail: ipams_emp@mydestiny.net
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.IPAMS.COM.PH

THIS AD IS ALLOWED UNDER MC2. ABSOLUTELY NO RECRUITMENT FEE. WE SHALL ONLY RESPOND TO SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES.

AVON

the company for women

2001 3rd Best Employer in the Philippines is in need of:

Branch Sales Trainers

The Branch Sales Trainer is responsible for the training and development of the Sales Force and for providing support to the Sales Manager or the Area Sales Manager in organizing and facilitating sales-related activities that would contribute to the achievement of branch portfolio targets.

Qualifications:
- College graduate, preferably with a Business degree
- At least 1 year experience in sales, training or teaching
- Good leadership skills
- Above-average Customer Service orientation
- Flexible and mobile – willing to be assigned within / outside Metro Manila
- Above-average communication / interpersonal skills

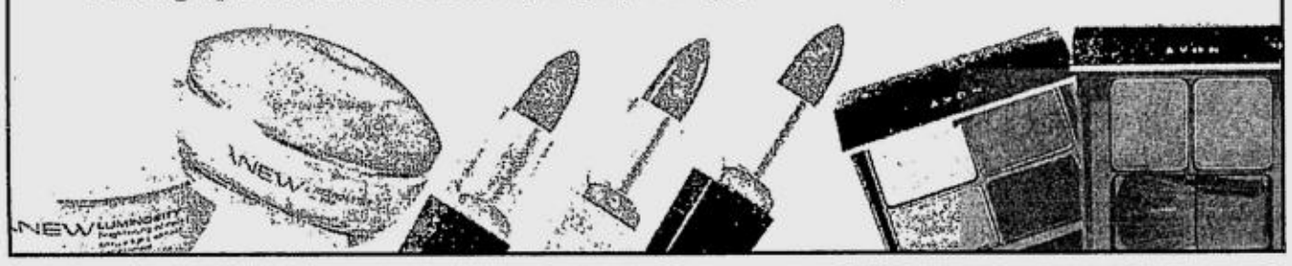
Sales Managers

(For Metro Manila, Iloilo, Bacolod, Batangas, Dagupan, Davao)

Responsible for managing an assigned portfolio of Franchise Managers (FMs) with the objective of achieving field plan and increasing overall effectiveness of the Sales Force through continuous improvement of field indicators and FM work standards.

Qualifications:
- preferably Male
- graduate of any 4-year course; a Masteral degree would be an advantage
- 2-3 years Sales Management experience
- Good implementation and management skills
- Strong Customer Service orientation
- Good analytical and decision-making skills
- Excellent interpersonal and verbal communication skills
- Flexible and mobile – willing to be assigned within / outside Metro Manila

Interested applicants, please e-mail your Resumé and scanned 2x2 photo to: kisset.aguinaldo@avon.com or visit the Avon Corporate Center, 144 Legazpi corner Herrera Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City.



WANTED IMMEDIATELY

A leading airline is in need of

Training and Development Specialists for Flight Attendants

QUALIFICATIONS

Former flight attendants with at least
5 years international flying experience
Preferably with qualification on such aircraft as:

B737-300
B737-400
A320-200
A330-300
A340-300
B747-200
B747-400

Fluent in English and Pilipino
With pleasing personality

SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 9, 2001

Resume
Letter of application
Recent 2X2 photo

Where to submit

Employment & Placement Division
P.O. Box 1344
Makati City

The James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital, Olongapo City

is accepting applicants for

Accredited Residency Training

in the Department of Surgery

Please apply in person at the Office of the Chief of Hospital. Bring bio-data and all pertinent papers.
For further inquiries please call
Tel. No. (047)222-4120.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES EXECUTIVES

- Single, between 21-30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year college course
- Aggressive, with pleasing personality
- Can speak English fluently

Interested applicants may send their resumés with 2x2 picture to:

#18 V. Ilustre St., Quezon City
Or e-mail to: **pycor@compass.com.ph**

NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL
Announcement of Vacant Position

1 NUTRITION PROGRAM COORDINATOR, SG-25, Item No. NNCB-NUTPC-11-1998, Masteral degree relevant to job, 5 years relevant experience, 32 hours relevant training, 2nd level eligibility.

For further information please call Mr. Benjamin C. Formento, Human Resource Management Officer III, Personnel Section, Administrative Division, Tel. No. 892-85-75.

(Sgd.) **CAROLINA BAUTISTA-BATALLONES**
Deputy Executive Director

PHYSICIANS

All Specialties International Recruiting firm has numerous opportunities in US. Must have prior US training. Fee paid by US Hospitals.

Send CV to:
roy@olesky.com

ACCOUNTANTS

Acct'g. graduate; female, 20-30 yrs. old; CPA License & experience preferred but not required; computer literate.
Bring bio-data, transcript, recent ID pic to:
ASIAN SHIPPING CORP.
88 C-3 Road, Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City
Look for Sarah : 287-5196 / 97

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

- Licensed B.S. Chem
- Male/Female
- Not more than 35 years of age
- Willing to work in Roxas City

Submit Application Letter, Bio-data, Transcript of Records and recent 2x2 picture to:

Cal's Poultry Supply Corp.
Patag, Lawa-an
Roxas City
Tel. No. (036) 621-0645
522-9068

or

Cal's Poultry Supply Corp.
Tabucan, Mandurriao
Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 321-1034

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

- Licensed Veterinarian
- Male/Female
- Not more than 35 years of age
- Willing to work in Roxas City

Interested applicants must submit:

Application Letter, Bio-data, Transcript of Records and recent 2x2 picture to:

Cal's Poultry Supply Corp.
Patag, Lawa-an
Roxas City, Capiz
Tel. No. (036) 621-0645
522-9068

or

Cal's Poultry Supply Corp.
Tabucan, Mandurriao
Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 321-1034

WANTED

OFFICE STAFF

- Female
- BS Accountancy
- At least 3-4 years working experience
- Fluent in Chinese (Fookien), English and Tagalog
- Not over 35 years old

1221 Tytana Plaza
Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz,
Binondo, Manila
T 241-15-94

SANYO DENKI PHILIPPINES, INC.
Block F-1 Subic Techno Park
Along Argonaut Hi-way, Boton Area,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
is in need of

DEPARTMENT MANAGERS

for

PRODUCTION (1): Has 5 years extensive work experience in the production of Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) including but not limited to the assembly of P-board, UPS wire processing, etc. Exposure on maintenance of related equipment is a must. Similarly, should have experience in Production Control Plan based on accepting order and engineering information (Order and Drawing), Progress Control and Adjustment of Delivery Date, Inventory Control for Product, and Forwarding Work (Product Flow Control). Should be knowledgeable on IZUMI production control software.

QUALITY ASSURANCE (1): Has at least 5 years extensive exposure/technical knowledge in the Quality Assurance for UPS products, process control, evaluation of product, dealing with customer claims for damage and purchase and quality control of materials. Must have hands-on experience on various related QA device/ equipment.

PURCHASING (1): Has at least 5 years extensive work experience in purchasing, warehousing, inventory and quality control of incoming materials in an electronics manufacturing company, preferably in UPS production.

PREFERABLY ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ, WRITE AND SPEAK NIHONGO.

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with 2x2 recent picture and credentials to:

Labor and Employment Center
Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

New **DATCHE** Phils. Traders Corp.
(IMPORTER/DISTRIBUTOR OF OFFICE EQUIPMENTS)
is in need of:

SERVICE TECHNICIANS

for immediate hiring

- Male, single, not more than 25 years old
- With electronic & computer background
- Self-motivated, hardworking, fast learner
- Fluent in oral communication
- Willing to travel & work long hours to repair/ install machines to provincial customers
- With office machines technical background is an advantage

Interested applicants may apply at: 2365D Fajardo Apartelle, South Superhighway, San Andres, Manila. Tel. No. 521-1190 or 536-5198. Bring resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 colored picture with white background. Look for Annabel.

WANTED : DISTRIBUTORS

Product : **Franch Salon Product**
Areas : **Visayas and Mindanao**
Qualifications:
- ✓ Must have facilities for sales distribution
- ✓ Preferably experienced
- ✓ Willing to post surety bond
- ✓ Must undergo product training

Please send your application to this address:

THE SALON
P.O. BOX 705
CEBU CITY

All letters must be received on or before **November 6, 2001.**

WANTED EXPERIENCED BAKERS

Looking for expert bakers (breads, pies, all-around).
Submit detailed resumé via fax 842-4384 or email at apply@baker-brothers.com or mail to
Baker Brothers, 12 Presidents Ave., Tahanan Village, Parañaque.

HOUSE OF DAVID
GROUP OF COMPANIES

A fast developing commercial center along Olongapo-Gapan Road is in search for highly motivated and results-oriented individuals with dynamic and pleasing personality who possess exceptional conceptual, technical, human relations and communication skills with impeccable integrity, good moral character and are willing to be assigned in Pampanga.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR

Qualification Standards:
1. A registered Civil/Electrical Engineer or a graduate of Industrial Engineering or any Management course
2. Familiar with Lease documents and other related documents
3. At least 5 years working experience in building administration

MARKETING OFFICER

Qualification Standards:
1. A graduate of any Bachelor's Degree in Business Studies, Sales and Marketing or equivalent
2. At least 3 years of working experience preferably in Real Estate or at least with experience in Marketing Management
3. Must be willing to go on fieldwork
4. Can effectively design, conceptualize and execute trendy marketing strategies and events, and layout promotional materials
5. Proficient in computer graphics and design, Power Point, PageMaker, CorelDraw and Adobe

Attractive compensation package awaits the qualified applicants.

Interested applicants may apply personally or send their comprehensive resumé, certificate of employment (if previously employed), transcript of records (photocopy), certificate of completion in "MS EXCEL" and "MS WORD" from a computer school (if applicable) and recent 2x2 picture to the:

Human Resources Department
House of David Group of Companies
Dolores City of San Fernando
Tel. Nos. (045) 961-7019 to 21

PHILIPPINE HANSE SHIP AGENCY, INC.
LICENSE NO. 162-SB-091900-R VALID UNTIL: 25 SEP 2002
POEA ACC. NO. 19158-11 VALID UNTIL: 09 AUG 2003
ISO9002 Certificate No. 953575

SENIOR OFFICERS

FULLY REFRIGERATED/ETHYLENE/NIS

1 CHIEF OFFICER **1 CHIEF ENGINEER**

FULLY REFRIGERATED/ETHYLENE

2 CHIEF OFFICERS

FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER DEPLOYMENT

FRINGE BENEFITS: Medical coverage for family members/Sponsored training and upgrading/Good career development prospects/Job Security/Financial Assistance/Allotment in U.S. Dollars/Free In-House Training

YOU MAY APPLY IN PERSON FROM 0900 - 1800 FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY AND 0900 - 1200 ON SATURDAYS AT:

GERMANAVIS COURT
Evangelista corner Gen. Tinio Streets, Bangkal, Makati City
or
TEL. NOS. 889-2701, 889-2711 local 107
YOU MAY TRANSMIT YOUR BIO-DATA THRU FAX NO.: 889-2707
BY EMAIL: RECRUITMENT@PHILHANSE.COM.PH

MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITERS
NO FEES WILL BE CHARGED TO ALL APPLICANTS
THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA

MAKE A CAREER CHOICE ONLINE.

McDonald's™ ALAMINOS

REACH FOR THE LADDER OF SUCCESS START AT McDONALD'S ™ TODAY

More than anything else, McDonald's is successful because of its individual Manager's success. That's why we're committed to providing the best training, the best support, and the best advancement opportunities in the industry.

JOIN OUR MANAGEMENT TRAINEE PROGRAM AND MOVE YOUR WAY UP!

As a McDonald's Manager, you'll do more than run restaurant operations. You will contribute ideas, develop new strategies and drive change from the ground up. SURPRISED? You shouldn't be. Today, few companies are as committed as we are to encouraging career growth or rewarding initiative.

If you live within the vicinity of Alaminos, Pangasinan and have supervisory experience and/or a college graduate, take the first step of the ladder Now! Send your resumé with an application letter and a recent 2x2 photo to:

P.O. Box 778
Dagupan City
Pangasinan

RISE E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS, INC.

The Consumers and E-Commerce Arm of the RISE Group of Companies

PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS

Suite 1603 Robinson's Galleria Corporate Center,
EDSA cor. Ortigas Complex, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02) 687-1737/687-2917 / 687-0941

WE INVITE highly motivated and results-oriented individuals with strong leadership qualities and excellent organizational and interpersonal communication skills; with pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character to become part of our growing company as:

❖ **CORPORATE LEGAL OFFICER** ❖

M/F, not more than 40 y/o; with relevant work experience in corporate lawyering, litigation, handling of public offerings, taxation and related fields. Must be a certified lawyer.

❖ **TRAINORS** ❖

M/F, 21-28 y/o; graduate of a four-year course preferably Mass Comm, BS Education, Business course; with excellent oral and written communication skills; must be good in Public Speaking; highly computer literate; can handle pressure and can adapt to different situations; must be willing to be assigned in Metro Manila, in the province and/or in depressed areas.

❖ **COORDINATORS** ❖

M/F, 21-35 y/o; graduate of a Business course; with 3-5 yrs sales and marketing experience; must be proficient in oral and written communication; computer literate; must be flexible, can handle pressure and willing to do field works.

❖ **CORPORATE PRESENTORS** ❖

M/F, 21-35 y/o; graduate of a four-year course preferably Mass Comm; with relevant work experience in similar capacity; excellent in oral and written communication skills and must be good in Public Speaking; computer literate; must be flexible, can handle pressure and willing to be assigned to do field works.

❖ **FIELD AUDITORS** ❖

M/F, not more than 40 y/o; graduate of BS in Accountancy and must be a CPA; with at least 2 years relevant work experience.

❖ **PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEV'T OFFICERS** ❖

M/F, 25-35 y/o; single. A graduate of Business Management or BS Economics course. Must have at least 5 years work experience in planning and research. Must have adept knowledge in research analysis. Can work long hours and can work in a deadline-oriented company.

❖ **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** ❖

Female, 25-30 y/o; single. A graduate of four-year course with at least 2-3 years work experience; organized, assertive, and quick-minded; can deal with deadline-oriented environment. Highly computer literate with good typing skills.

❖ **ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT / BOOKKEEPER / ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK / ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CLERK / CREDIT & COLLECTION CLERK** ❖

Female, 25-30 y/o; single. A graduate of BS in Accountancy with at least 2-3 years work experience, highly computer literate and can deal with deadline-oriented environment. Can work under pressure and willing to work overtime.

❖ **PAYROLL MASTER** ❖

Female, 25-30 y/o; single. A graduate of BS in Accountancy with at least 2-3 years work experience, highly computer literate and can deal with deadline oriented company. Knowledgeable in SSS, PAG-IBIG, and BIR Matters, undertakes payroll preparation.

❖ **MARKETING ASSISTANT** ❖

M/F, 21-35 y/o; graduate of Business Management, Marketing, Advertising or Mass Comm; proficient in oral and written communications; with relevant work experience.

❖ **EDITOR / ASST. EDITOR / EDITORIAL STAFF / COPYWRITER** ❖

M/F, not over 35 y/o; holder of Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Mass Comm or English Comm Arts; preferably with background in Business Administration Management; computer literate; creative, has keen eyes for details and must have relevant working experience in publication.

❖ **GRAPHIC ARTIST** ❖

M/F, 21-30 y/o; preferably single; graduate of BS Fine Arts, Graphic Design or equivalent course; proficient with Desktop Publishing Software (Photoshop, Illustrator, CorelDraw, PageMaker, Freehand, etc.); creative, has keen eyes for details and must have relevant working experience in publication.

❖ **SYSTEMS INTEGRATION ASSISTANTS** ❖

Female, preferably single a graduate of four-year course, preferably Mass Comm or Business Administration. With at least (4) years work experience and adept in office procedures, proficient in Windows/Microsoft operation and can stand pressure and can work long hours.

❖ **PROGRAMMERS/SYSTEMS ANALYST** ❖

Male, not more than 27 y/o; must be a graduate of Comp. Scie./Com. Eng or ECE; with at least 3-yrs. relevant work experience in the following applications; SQL Server 7 or 2000, Microsoft Access 2000 or XP Visual Basic, Internet Development, JAVA ASP, Crystal Report Version 6, knowledge in Database Administration & Computer programming an advantage, Windows Operating System (1998 NT / 2000 Professional). Proven ability to work with a team/long hours and can work under pressure.

❖ **WEB DEVELOPERS** ❖

Male, not more than 27 y/o, must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Comp. Scie. / Comp. Eng'g. With 2-3 years in-depth experience in web development using Microsoft Technologies: ASP, IIS, VB Script: Access, SQL Server, Visual Interdev/Ultradev. Strong knowledge in HTML and JAVA Script Hardcoding as well as Cross-browser Development. Proven ability to work with a team/ long hours and can work under pressure.

❖ **ENCODERS** ❖

Graduate of any 4-year course, with background in Accounting. With typing speed of 45-50 wpm. Can work with minimum supervision. Must be willing to work overtime.

Apply in person with application letter, comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, 2 pcs. 2x2 pictures, 2 pcs. 1x1 pictures and other necessary employment credentials.

Email Address: **hrd@rise-ecommerce.com**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE PREMIER TERTIARY REFERRAL CENTER IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

Representatives from King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia will be holding interviews during the week commencing 12 November 2001.

STAFF NURSES

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Fresh graduates should have BSN with a pass mark of 80% or above

$US 1,000 BONUS PAYABLE IF YOU TRAVEL BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2001

(Subject to interview and passing pharmacology, knowledge and English test)

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

Excellent Salary; Free Housing and Free Airline Tickets; Annual Bonus/Severance Pay; Up to 50-60 Days Vacation; Excellent Orientation and Continuing Education; American Heart Certified Life Support Education; Competency-Based Skills Training Program.

NOVEMBER 12-14 POEA Manila
NOVEMBER 5-6 Iloilo City
Venue: **Days Hotel** Time: **10-1900**
NOVEMBER 7-8 Cebu City
Venue: **Cebu Plaza** Time: **10-1900**
NOVEMBER 9-10 Davao City
Venue: **Marco Polo Hotel** Time: **10-1900**

The following staff are also required:

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST

REQUIREMENTS: High School Required; Must have an extensive knowledge of medical terminology; Must have a typing speed of 65 words per minute through a medical terminology typing test. Three years of medical transcription required.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

REQUIREMENTS: At least two (2) years experience.

PROSTHETIST TECHNICIAN

REQUIREMENTS: One year of practical and theoretical training in Orthosis after High School. Appropriate certification. Two (2) years of related experience.

TELEPHONE TECHNICIAN

REQUIREMENTS: High School education required. At least 2 years related experience. Driver's license.

WAITER

REQUIREMENTS: High School Education required. Formal Hotel and Restaurant education required. Two (2) years experience as a waiter in a hotel, restaurant, private dining club or catering service required. Must be able to read, write and speak English.

Candidates should personally submit a detailed resumé with job and unit description, together with certificates of employment, two reference letters (one must be from current nurse / specialty manager), board rating / certificate / PRC card, nursing / specialty certificate, if any. New nursing graduates should present a reference from clinical instructor or faculty), original current nursing / specialty license, board certificate / board rating, original passport and a passport photograph between 7 AM - 4 PM for the issuance of KFSH Application from / Medical Questionnaire and Interview of POEA Officer to the:

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
GOVERNMENT PLACEMENT BRANCH (WINDOW R)
Ground Floor, Left Wing Lobby
EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City and or at
POEA REGIONAL OFFICES

Deadline for Submission: **07 November 2001 for Metro Manila Applicants**
30 October 2001 Regional Applicants

"Mag-ingat Sa Mga Illegal Recruiters"

NOTE: MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED
BRING ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

The **MANILA OBSERVATORY**, a Jesuit institution engaged in scientific research, invites applicants for the following positions:

Program Research Associate

Qualifications:
- Masteral Degree in any of the following fields: Environmental Science/ Management, Geography, Environmental Economics/Development Economics, Urban and Regional Planning, International Studies, Development Studies, or other related fields
- At least three (3) years of experience in policy research and development; with more than adequate experience in field research
- Extensive knowledge and understanding of the scientific and policy aspects of global environmental issues
- Extensive experience in coordinating with different branches and levels of government, the private sector as well as civic society groups

Training Officer

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's Degree in any of the following fields: Development Studies, Community Development, Development Communication, Education, Environmental Planning, Environmental Science or other related fields
- At least three (3) years of experience in developing and implementing social development-oriented training programs
- Knowledge and experience in the conduct of training needs assessment (TNA) and in developing training curriculum
- Highly knowledgeable in the various tools and approaches in training
- Knowledge or experience in developing and implementing web-based training programs is highly preferred

Marketing and Product Development Officer

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in any of the following fields: Business Administration major in Marketing, Communication Research, Development Communication; MBA or any equivalent degree is a plus
- At least three (3) years of experience in product development and direct marketing of products and services preferably in the fields of research and training
- Knowledge in conducting market research, needs assessment and in developing marketing plans

Please submit your documents in person: a letter of application, an updated resumé, transcript of records, one recent passport-sized photograph, and samples of relevant work on or before 16 November 2001 at the:

Human Resources Office, Manila Observatory
Ateneo de Manila Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Tel Nos. 426-5921 to 23

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the supply of:

I **Security Services for the Department of Labor and Employment Central Office for the period January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002**
II **Janitorial Services for the Department of Labor and Employment Central Office for the period January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002**

Interested bidders may secure application for eligibility forms with the checklist of eligibility documents from the Property Division, Administrative Service, Second Floor, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila. Application for eligibility together with the eligibility documents shall be submitted to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) in a sealed envelope marked with the title of the item/project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters addressed to the BAC on **November 13, 2001** for Security Services and on **November 16, 2001** for Janitorial Services not later than **2:00 PM** at the Administrative Service Conference Room, Second Floor, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila, during which the same shall be publicly opened. The interested bidders therefore are invited to witness the opening of eligibility documents. Late submission shall not be accepted.

Only eligible bidders are allowed to attend the pre-bid conference on **November 23, 2001** at **10:00 AM** for Security Services and at **2:00 PM** for Janitorial Services at the same venue. Attendance during the pre-bid conference is a must and an absent bidder shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate in the bidding.

The approved budget for Security Services is **SEVEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT PESOS AND 68/100 ONLY (Php 7,428,388.68)** and for Janitorial Services is **THREE MILLION NINE HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO PESOS AND 80/100 ONLY (Php 3,928,462.80).**

The PUBLIC BIDDING is on **December 6, 2001** at **10:00 AM** for Security Services and at **2:00 PM** for Janitorial Services at the same venue which is the deadline for the submission of bids. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals on the date of the bidding. The Department of Labor and Employment reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information please call telephone numbers 527-3480 and 527-3583.

(Sgd.) **BENEDICTO ERNESTO R. BITONIO, JR.**
Assistant Secretary
Chairman, DOLE Procurement Committee

October 25, 2001

(PDI – Oct. 27 & 28, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

NOTICE

TO : ALL APPLICANTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSES AND DRUG TESTING LABORATORIES CONCERNED
DATE : October 25, 2001
SUBJECT : Implementation of the LTO Drug Testing Program on October 29, 2001

Notice is hereby given to all applicants for new Professional or Non-Professional Driver's License or renewal thereof that, **EFFECTIVE 29 OCTOBER 2001**, the Land Transportation Office shall process only the application thereon if the same is accompanied by a negative drug test laboratory report issued by a duly accredited Drug Testing Center, which has a validity period of fifteen (15) days from date of issuance.

This mandatory requirement is pursuant to Section 22 of Republic Act No. 4136, as amended by Batas Pambansa Blg. 398, and is in accordance with the provisions of Administrative Order No. BGC-AO-001 dated 23 February 1999 and Memorandum Circular No. EMA-MC-1338-A dated 30 August 2001.

For information and guidance.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. ABENINA**
Brig. Gen. AFP (Ret.)
Assistant Secretary

(PDI – Oct. 28, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF MATALOM
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: October 28, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the **Contract No. RI RR 01 399 04 MAT-L for the Rehabilitation Zaragosa-Sta. Paz Road** located at Brgy. Zaragosa, Matalom, Leyte. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Matalom and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP-WB invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Description of the Project: Rehabilitation of 3.00 kms Road 24.66 ln.m RCDG Bridge

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
102	Excavation	14,956.00 cu.m.
103(2)	Bridge Excavation (AOWL)	65.00 sq.m.
200	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	1,800.00 cu.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	1,800.00 cu.m.
400(15)	Reinforced Concrete Test Piles (Furnish/driven)	32.00 ln.m.
400(22)	Reinforced Concrete Regular Piles (Furnish/driven)	299.50 ln.m.
401	Concrete Railing	48.00 ln.m.
404 (a)	Reinforcing Steel (apron slab)	924.00 kgs.
404 (b)	Reinforcing Steel	16,868.44 kgs.
405	Structural Concrete (apron slab)	18.00 cu.m.
405	Structural Concrete class "A"	155.00 cu.m.
500	R.C. Pipe Culverts	72.00 ln.m.
504 (a)	Grouted Riprap (headwall)	32.85 cu.m.
504	Grouted Riprap	103.00 cu.m.
Spl (1)	Elastomeric Bearing Pads	12.00 pcs
Spl (2)	Coco craneway/flatform	15.00 ln.m.

Bid Security : P145,000.00
Bid Closing Date: November 29, 2001, 10:00 AM
Sub-project Duration: 160 C.D.

Minimum Equipment's Required
Bulldozer, Payloader, Dump trucks, Road Grader, Road Roller (min. 9 ton), Water truck, Concrete mixer, concrete vibrator, Crane

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting November 5, 2001, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM upon payment of a non-refundable fee of three thousand five hundred pesos only (P3,500.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on November 14, 2001, at 2:00 P.M. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Matalom, Leyte Province on or before the above bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on November 29, 2001 at 10:00 A.M. in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/ bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **HON. RODRIGO N. PAJULIO, M.D.**
Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI--Oct. 28, 2001)

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"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

"You will be forever in our hearts, TATA"

FIDEL ZOSIMO USI CANILAO

of Masantol, Pampanga
Former Delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 26, 2001 at the age of 83.

His loving wife **Encarnacion**; children **Tad, Teresa** (†), **Suzette, Jennifer, Lincoln, Liza, Joyce, Milagros** (†), **Jay, Johann, Robin, Ozzie** (†) and **Fitz**; sisters **Bayang** and **Conchita** and all in-laws, grandchildren, relatives, and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel B-7, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City from October 27 until October 31, 2001.

Requiem Mass will be at 7:30 A.M., October 31, 2001 after which his remains will be brought to Masantol, Pampanga. Interment will be in his hometown on Saturday, November 3, 2001.

In Loving Memory
on the 9th Death Anniversary of

Atty. FRANCISCO "Totoy" LIBORO

of San Juan, Metro Manila and Occidental Mindoro
Former Judge, Board Member - Occidental Mindoro
Ret. Sr. Judicial Officer - Supreme Court of the Philippines
April 15, 1927 - October 28, 1992

Masses will be offered today, October 28, 2001 at the following:

Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (Our Lady of EDSA)	6:00 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City	7:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	7:15 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Church, Pinaglabanan, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:00 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:00 p.m.
Santuario del Sto. Cristo, Blumentritt Street, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:00 p.m.
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.

ANACLETO S. MADRILEJO

of Balingasa, Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 27, 2001 at the age of 91.

His children **Roberto & Nora Guevara, Lourdes** (†) **& Leopoldo Macapagal, Jovita & Leonardo Santos, Romanita & Reynato Sto. Tomas, Corazon & Thomas Villarreal, Elizabeth & Jose Navea, Alberto & Lilia Tan, Edgardo & Susan dela Paz**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request for prayers for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Wake hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Interment to be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

RAFAEL ANTONIO A. CARBALLO, JR. "RAFFY"

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 26, 2001 at the age of 53.

His loving wife **JOPIE**; children **LOUIE, CRISTINE & YSABEL**; father **RAFAEL** (†); mother **CAROLINA; TITA DING;** brothers and sisters **DITOS & ENTANG, MARI & EVELYN, MONCHET, MARISA, RICO & MARITZ, MARIPAZ & ARIEL**; uncles; aunts; nephews; nieces; cousins; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will be at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 30, 2001 after the 10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass.

ERRATUM

In the obituary ad of **Brig. Gen. Benjamin R. Vallejo, AFP (Ret.)** published October 27, 2001, the **"Rainbow Batch Caracal"** was inadvertently misspelled as "Rainbow Batch Caralal."

Our apologies.

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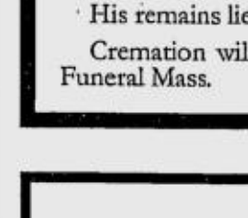

in Visayas

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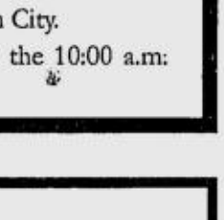

in Mindanao

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Cagayan de Oro City
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Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
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Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
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Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
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86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-0973
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
P. Briantes Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2965/990-4016

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for:

I. One (1) year contract (Jan.-Dec. 2002) for the following:
a. Laundry Services (linens)
b. Supply of Medical Oxygen (tanks only)
c. Aircon Maintenance

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **Nov. 12, 2001** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Oct. 26, 27, 28, Nov. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

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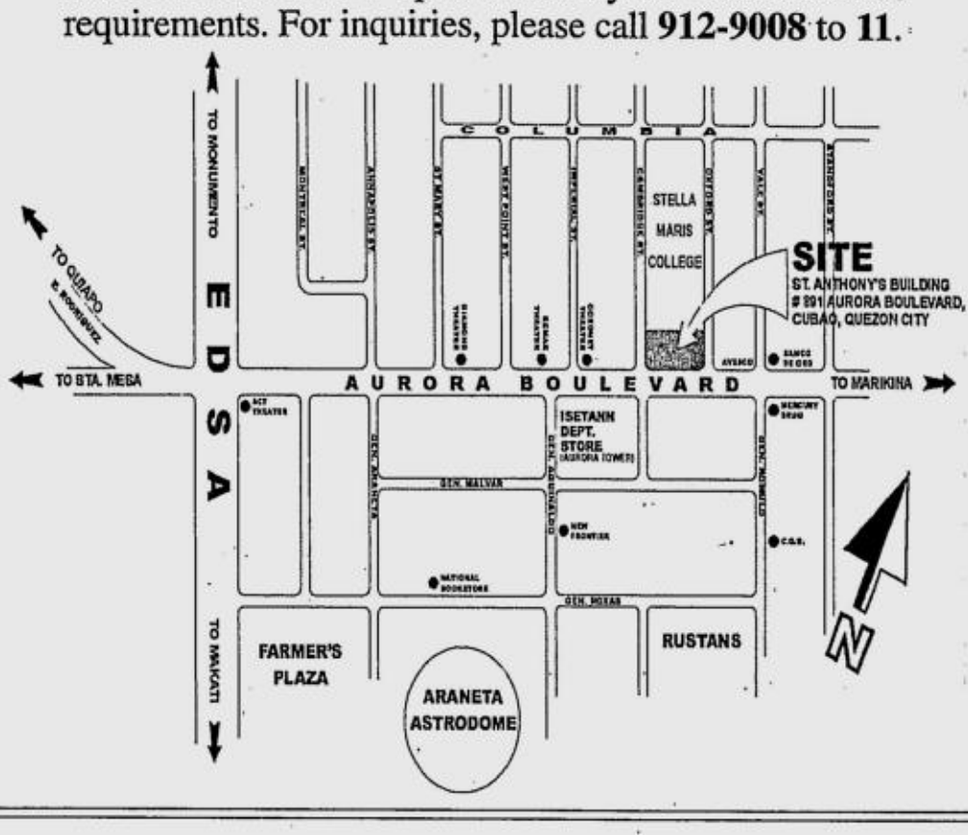
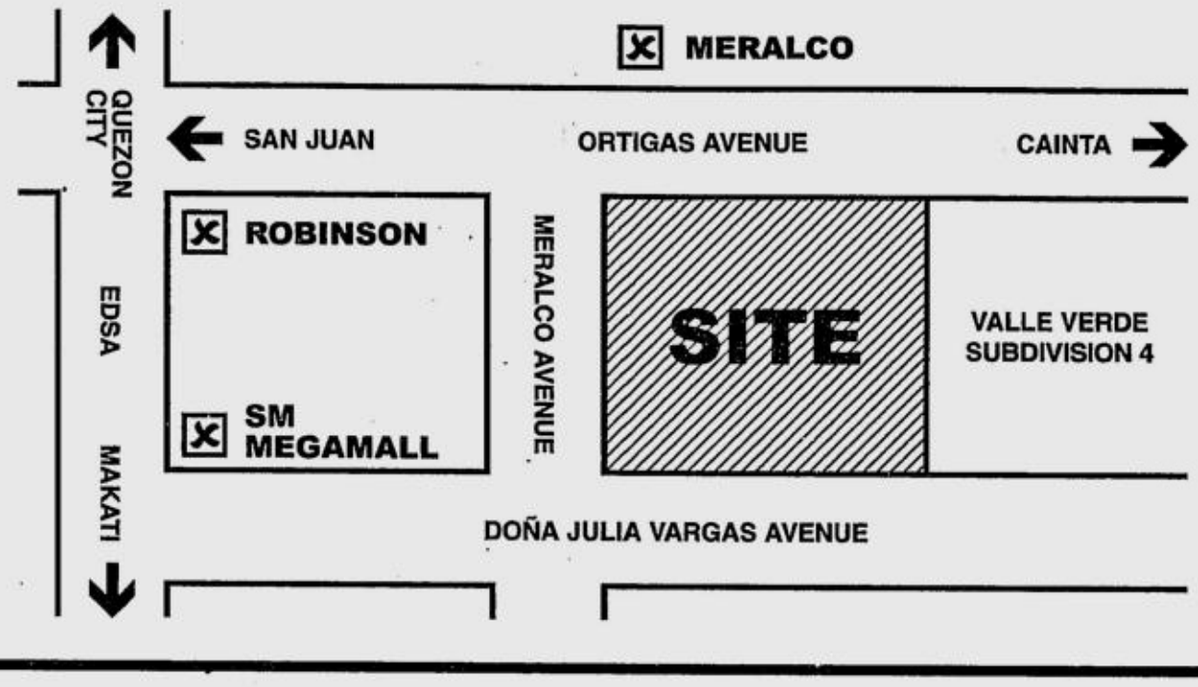
Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the "Payanig sa Pasig" property located along Ortigas, Meralco and Julia Vargas Avenues, Barangay Ugong, Pasig City (see sketch below) and covered by TCT Nos. 337158 and 469702 in the name of Mid-Pasig Land Development Corporation (MPLDC) is a government/ Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) property. The lease agreements entered into by MPLDC with Patricia Bañez and Mario Tablante, have already expired on September 15, 2000 and March 6, 2000, respectively, and have not been renewed. Leases extended by ECRM Enterprises and/or Mario Tablante, MC Home Depot, Inc., Rockland Construction Company, Inc. and/or Laurie Litam, and Patricia Bañez and/or Gold Park, Inc. and/or Emmanuel "Noli" Zapanta **are not authorized by the PCGG/MPLDC**. Cases have, in fact, been filed in court against them. Any one who wishes to transact business involving said property or a portion thereof must deal with Presidential Commission on Good Government/ Mid-Pasig Land Development Corporation.



NATIVIDAD S. CRUZ

(Auntie Naty)
Beloved Teacher and Principal

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 26, 2001 at the age of 85.

Her in-laws **Mrs. Elisa Cruz** and **Mr. Leonardo Andres**; her many nieces and nephews who cherished her love and guidance request her former students, fellow teachers and everyone whose lives she has touched to offer prayers for her eternal repose.

She lies in state at the Guzman Memorial Chapel, J.P. Rizal St., Sto. Niño, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 28, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Our Lady of the Abandoned Church, Marikina City.

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

MARIA VICTORIA MAPLE GAVERZA

who died in the Grace of our Lord on October 28, 2000.

The family requests the pious readers to remember Marievic in their prayers.

Atty. WILLIAM ADONA ALVERO

December 8, 1926 - October 25, 2001

Former Treasurer, Baybay, Leyte;
Retired Director, Local Government Finance

His bereaved wife **Ceferina Varona**; children and spouses **Willeta, Wilwyn** and **Marilou, Wilma** and **Dieter Zander, Dianena** and **Richard Rautert, Wilrena** and **Atty. Aaron Redubla, Winton** and **Anita, Willan, Winchel, Wilna Veronica**; and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Edwards Church, Winnipeg, Canada. Plans to bring his remains to the Philippines are being finalized.

Special Masses will be offered at San Lorenzo Parish Church, Tierra Verde, Tandang Sora, Quezon City and Sto. Niño Parish Church, Tacloban City, Sunday morning, October 28, 2001.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

ATTY. ANTONIO S. CASTILLO

Former Councilor—Davao City

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 25, 2001.

His loving wife **Fortune**; children **Mimi, Gerardo, Victor,** and **Maria Theresa** and **Martin**; grandchildren **Rafael Carmelo** and **Rex Christian**; sisters, brothers, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at Lanang, Davao City.

Interment will be on October 29, 2001 at San Pedro Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Redemptorist Church, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City.

FLORENCIA "*PURING*" D. DIEGO

(wife of the late Montano E. Diego, Sr.)

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 19, 2001at the age of 87.

Her loving children and their spouses; **MONTANO & AMADA ENRIQUEZ; DR. IRENE & ENGR. GUILLERMO AMORES, AURORA & ENGR. CASTO CHANGHO, VICENTE & DR. NENITA SULIT, ROMEO & ZENAIDA MENDOZA, ENGR. DEOGRACIAS & CECIL LOZANO;** grandchildren and great grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City on October 31, 2001 at 10 a.m.

Rosalina Uy Vda. de Capinpin

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on October 26, 2001 at the age of 70.

Her loving son **Francis Xavier Uy Capinpin;** daughter-in-law **Julie;** grandchildren **Nina Ysabelle** and **Iñigo;** sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, October 31, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at the Paz Crematory, Quezon City after the 12:30 p.m. Mass at Chapel G at Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Cor. 4:14

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B SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2001

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MAKATI

MAGALLANES CORNER LOT LA717m² FA520m² 3BR Den Annex All w/TB Balcony Big Garden P30M 852-3396

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VENUE: Acacia Room, Cebu Country Club, Banilad, Cebu City

	RESIDENTIAL	AREA	MINIMUM BID
	CEBU CITY		
1.	Res.l. Lot / Lot 992, Cuano Drive, Cuano Subd Bgy. Apas, Cebu City	LA -3,71	16,590,000
2.	Res'l Lot / Lot 2-C-6-A, Along Nat'l., Road, Brgy. Busay, Cebu City	LA-900	1,354,000
3.	Res'l Lot /Lot 2-C-2, about 15 meters. fr. National Road, Brgy Busay, Cebu	LA-393	395,000
4.	Res'l Lot / Lot 2-C-3, about 15 meters.fr. National Road, Brgy Busay, Cebu	LA-393	395,000
5.	Res'l Lot / Lot2-C-4, about 115 meters fr. Nat'l. Road, Brgy Busay, Cebu	LA-420	340,000
6.	Res'l Lot /Lot 2-C-5,about 115 meters from National Road, Brgy., Busay	LA-420	340,000
	MANDAUE CITY		
7.	Residential Lot / Lot 26, J.S. Alinsug Road, Jagobiao, Mandaue City	LA-546	900,000
8.	Res.l. Lot / Lot 669-C, Cortes Ave. cor Cabahug St., Bgy. Lo-oc, Mandaue	LA-706	5,850,000
	COMMERCIAL		
	CEBU CITY		
9.	Commercial Lots w/ 6 storey comm'l bldg. (1-3 floors complete, 4-6 floors unfinished) w/ roofdeck / Lots # 7624-C-3 & 7624-C-1-B, Along Colon Street, Pahina Central, Brgy. Sambag (on lease agreement)	LA- 660.7 FA- 3,070	76,005,000
10.	Commercial Lot w/ 3 Apartment bldgs. - 2 storey, 3 storey, & 2 storey / Lot 5, Gen. Maxilon Avenue, Barangay Camputhaw (w/ occupants)	LA- 430 FA- 558.22	8,980,000
11.	Commercial Lot w/ 2 warehouses / Lots 1 to 5 - Blk 4, Lot 6-B, & Lots 7 to10 - Blk 4, Along Salvador St., Labangon, Cebu City	LA - 3,344 FA- 3,663	25,710,000
12.	Commercial Lots w/ warehouses / Lots # 8279-A, 4759, 4761 & 4768, Barrio Basak, Pardo, Cebu City (on lease agreement)	LA - 6,210	40,000,000
13.	Commercial Lot/Lot 9740-D, Along Cebu South Road, Bgy. Tabunok,Cebu	LA - 2,796	25,000,000
14.	Commercial Lot / Lot 1, Kaoshlung St. corner F. Urot St., Brgy. Cebu Port Centre, Cebu City	LA- 1,415	22,290,000
15.	Commercial Lot / Lot 2, Cabahug St., corner F. Urot St., Brgy., Cebu Port Centre, Cebu City	LA- 1,415	22,290,000
16.	Commercial Lot / Lot 7, Osmena Blvd., corner Cabahug St., Brgy. Cebu Port Centre, Cebu City	LA- 1,416	22,650,000
17.	Commercial Lot / Lot 3, Cabahug St., Brgy. Cebu Port Centre, Cebu City	LA- 1,100	15,400,000
18.	Commercial Lot / Lot 4, Cabahug St., Brgy. Cebu Port Centre, Cebu City	LA- 1,100	15,400,000
19.	Commercial Lot / Lot 5, Cabahug St., Brgy. Cebu Port Centre, Cebu City	LA- 1,100	15,400,000
20.	Commercial Lot / Lot 6, Cabahug St., Brgy., Cebu Port Centre, Cebu City	LA- 1,100	15,400,000
	MANDAUE CITY		
21.	Commercial / Industrial Lot w/ split level commercial / Industrial building., w/ motorpool & stockroom / Lot 75-F, Along A.S. Fortuna St., Banilad, Mandaue City (on lease agreement)	LA - 2,960 FA - 1,318	36,100,000

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No 6 Humabon St. Kingsville Subd, Bo Mayamot	379	office/ residential building		2.561M
No 15 Nellie St. Gloria Heights Subd	236	bungalow with 3BR and 2TB	227	1.5M
BULACAN				
Lot 1 Blk 5 Ruby St. cor Diamond St., Consuelo Sub., Abangan, Marilao	232	single-detached house with 4BR and 3TB	193	1.6M
Lot 25 Blk 15 Bush St. McArthur Village Longos, Malolos	126	bungalow with 2BR and 2TB	102	850T
CALOOCAN CITY				
No 71 3rd St. Bo. Catalunan	325	2-storey resd'l/ commercial bldg with mezzanine (plus warehouse)	250	7M
Lot 20 Blk. 2 Psalm St. Sto Tomas Village IV Deparo	240	2-storey house with 3BR and 3TB plus servant's quarter	237	2.9M
Lot 21 Blk. 17 Goldenshower St. BF Homes	240	single-detached with 3BR and 3TB	224	1.4M
LAS PIÑAS CITY				
No 11 Manganese Road Pilar Village	240	house and lot		1.81M
16 Kuala Lumpur St. BF Homes	296	2-storey with 5BR and 5TB	224	3.5M
162 Venice St. BF Homes International	280	2-storey with 12BR and 6TB	453	2.4M
MAKATI CITY				
Unit 301, Crown Tower H V dela Costa St. Salcedo Village		condo unit with 2BR and 2TB	178.92	10M
6740 Teyto St. Pio del Pilar	189	1 unit of 2-storey and 1 unit of unfinished 3-storey apartment	225	4.9M
MANILA				
Unit 1405 Regina Garden II 703 Regina Regente St.		condo unit with 3BR and 2TB	159	6.36M
Unit 1401 Regina Garden II 703 Regina Regente St.		condo unit with 3BR and 2TB	151	6.04M
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
169 Buendia St., Tunasan		townhouse with 2BR and 1TB		
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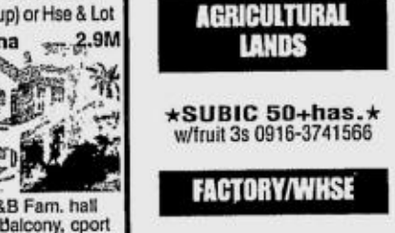
9-B-16			64.65	615T
9-B-17			71.24	676T
9-B-18			69.46	659T
9-B-19			65.36	620T
9-B-20			65.36	620T
9-B-21			65.36	620T
9-B-22			64.00	608T
Lot 13 Blk. 8 San Bernardino St. Susana Heights Subd.	500	3-storey with 10BR and 5TB	621	8M

Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
59-A Lourdes St. San Jose Village Alabang	328	bungalow with 3BR and 2TB	131	2.6M
PARANAQUE CITY				
No 32 Benitez corner E. Yuchengco St. BF Homes	984	single-detached with 7BR and 6TB, swimming pool and basement	523	8M
No 37 Dela Rama corner C. Benitez St. BF Homes	316	bungalow with 5BR and 6TB	260	3.6M
No 24 A. Chioco St. BF Homes	200	bungalow with 3BR and 3TB	245	4.9M
PASIG CITY				
Renaissance 2000 Meralco Ave. Unit 901, 8th Flr.		condo unit with 1BR and 1TB	70.592	3.7M
Unit 2G-7 Crescent Condominium San Miguel Ave.		2 level condo with 3BR and 4TB	367.5	15M
QUEZON CITY				
Lot 7 Blk. 5-156 Unit 14 Ponta Alta Townhomes, Samar Ave. West Triangle, Diliman	66	3-storey townhouse with 4BR and 3TB	214	5.4M
No 19 Don Ramon St Talayan Village	925	residential house	387	14M
Lot 8 Blk. 3 Bonner St. Fairmonts Subd North Fairview	300	unfinished 2-storey house with 7BR and 6TB	430	3.3M
Unit 1103 Prince Gregory Condominium 12th Ave., Cubao		condo unit with 1BR and 1TB	41	1.4M
Unit 10 Capitol Golf Hills Townhomes		4-storey townhomes with 4BR and 4TB	230.61	6.5M
Unit 6, Vermont Square Townhomes, Sunrise Dr. Santolan		townhouse with 4BR and 5TB	174.2	3.2M
Lot 4497-B-2-A No 1133 Edsa Bahaybahay	1000	office and resdl. bldg	1121	40M
Unit D-70, K-Wide Townhomes, Samville Subd., Tandang Sora	95	2-storey townhouse with 5BR and 2TB	157	2.8M
Unit G Villa Valencia Townhomes, Valencia St.	120	2-storey townhouse with 4BR and 4TB	235	6.5M



QUEZON CITY - NOVALICHES				
Lot 17 Blk. 11 St Philip St. San Pedro 7 Subd. San Bartolome Novaliches	200	2-storey with 5BR and 2TB	180	1.7M
Unit 35, Ma. Rosario Homes, TS Cruz Subd. Brgy San Agustin Novaliches	53	2-storey apartment with 3BR and 1TB	79	650T

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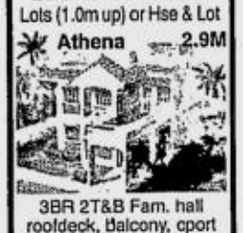

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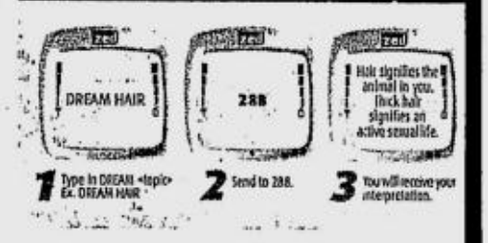

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LOURDES M. CARINO has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc 63 Page13 Book1 Series 2001 of Not Pub Ma Julieta C Santos of Q.C.
(PDI-10/28, 11/4&11,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Identification Certificate of Messrs. GUILLERMO E. CUA and OSCAR E. CUA, both residents of Candelaria, Zambales, issued by the Bureau of Immigration, Manila have been lost.
(PDI-Oct. 21 & 28, 2001)

PERSONAL

"Thank You Holy Spirit for Your Guidance and St. Jude for your powerful intercession - LC"

NOVENA PRAYER

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest,

O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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AKA LIBAY A. OCAMPO
Case No: 01-2099-NCJR Br. 132

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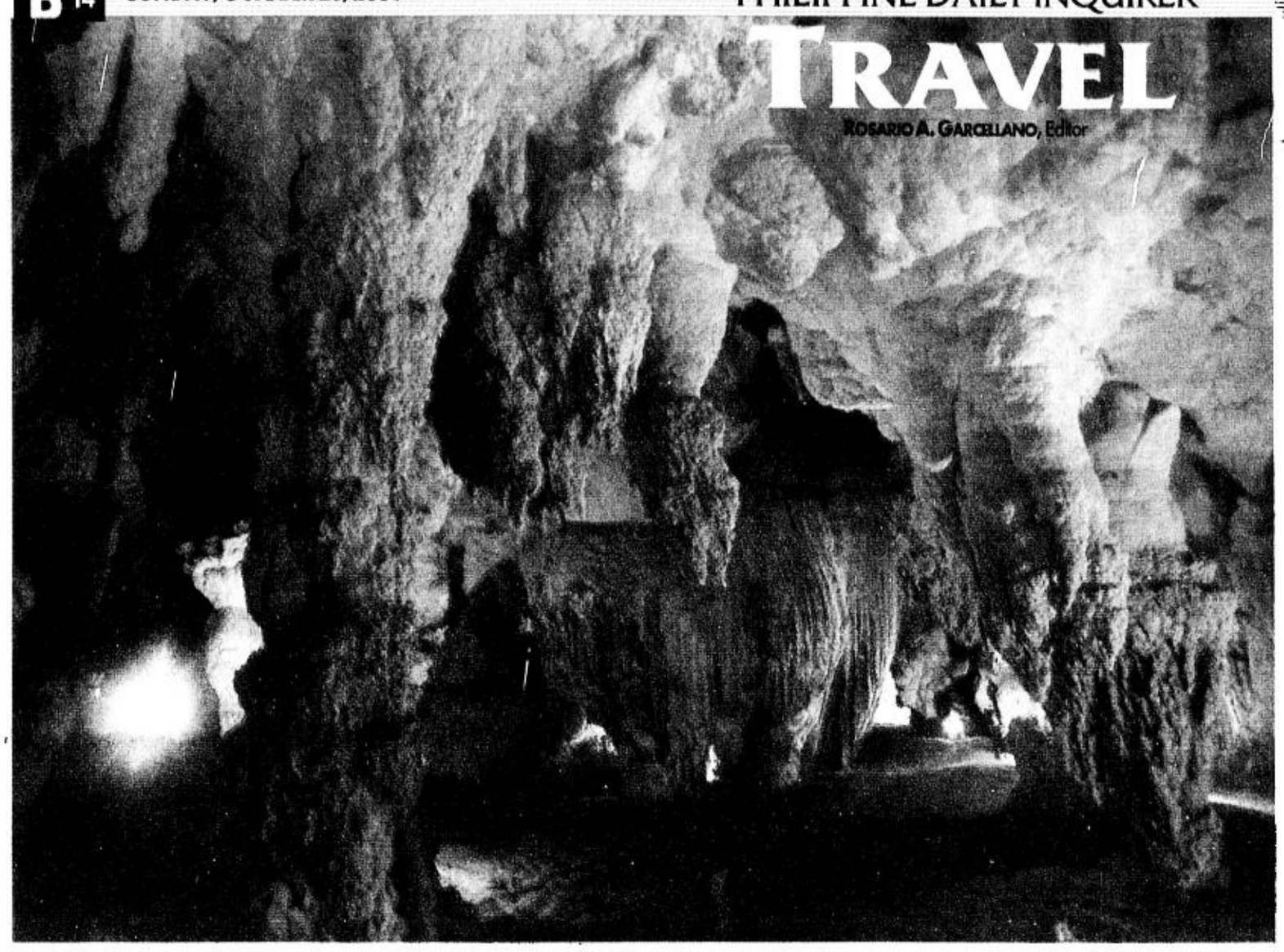
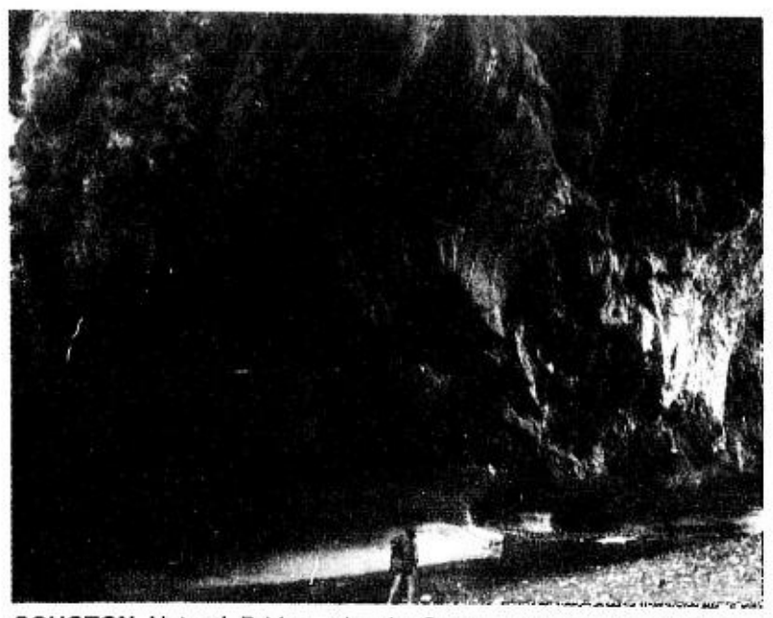
TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor



PANHULUGAN Cave I in Samar has an estimated floor area of 560 square meters.



SOHOTON Natural Bridge, also in Samar, was formed over eons almost entirely by water.

The local travel industry owes a lot to domestic tourism. Still, the challenge is getting more Filipinos to see their own land

If you're afraid to fly...

BY ANGELINA G. GOLOY

TRAVELERS who have developed a fear of flying in the wake of the events of Sept. 11 and the aftermath need not settle for armchair travel to give in to wanderlust. There are a myriad destinations to explore right in our own backyard—or maybe a little farther yonder.

Did you know that in Bulacan alone there are about 700 resorts? Perry M. Alegre, president of the Philippine Tour Operators Association Inc. (Philtoa), offers the information as though to test one's tourist IQ.

Talk about travel and tourism, and we instinctively look beyond our borders, conjuring up images of plush accommodations and landscaped wonderlands on some secluded isle. "But even those family weekend outings and overnight trips to places just several hours' drive away constitute an important part of tourism," Alegre says.

More significantly, he says, it is domestic tourism that has been sustaining the local travel industry, especially in these difficult times. It appears that the gains it made in an unexpected reaction to the "Asian flu" of the late 1990s have been sustained.

In recent years, Alegre observes, there has been a lot of "inter-province, inter-city tourism" going on.

Now the crisis spawned by the worldwide terrorist threat presents a fresh opportunity to build on those gains, as more Filipino travelers chart courses closer to home.

For Philtoa, the chance to seize that opportunity is through the forthcoming Philippine Travel Mart, the annual travel and tourism show dedicated solely to promoting local destinations. On its 12th staging on Nov. 23-25 at the Megatrade Halls of SM Megamall, the show further reaffirms its being "the biggest tourism and travel show," based on the number of participants.

From a minimum of 230 in previous years, the number of booths this year not just increased but even surpassed Philtoa's target of 284. Two months to opening day, 85 percent of the 324 booths were booked, clearly indicating a record-breaker in the making.

AGUSAN Marsh, Asia's biggest, provides shelter for migratory birds during winter.

EXCEPT FOR THE SHOT OF AGUSAN MARSH, THESE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN FROM "OUR NATURAL HERITAGE—THE PROTECTED AREAS OF THE PHILIPPINES," PUBLISHED BY THE DENR, PHILIPPINE AIRLINES FOUNDATION AND FOUNDATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

PANHULUGAN Cliffs, directly opposite the Panhulugan Caves, provides another breathtaking view.

Besides transport and accommodation companies, resorts and attractions, exhibitors include local government units (LGUs), particularly provincial, city, and municipal tourism councils.

Like one grand nationwide fiesta, the Travel Mart is the stage on which all regions showcase their attractions, services and products. Thus, alongside tour booking counters, there are stalls selling traditional souvenirs, handicraft, toys, gifts, houseware, even *kakanin*.

Visitors are entertained, in typical Pinoy fashion, through songs, dances and various cultural presentations.

"People in the provinces are always proud to show visitors around, especially foreigners," Alegre says. It's the same spirit pervading the Travel Mart. Whenever Philtoa members go on familiarization tours around the country, he says, "it's heartwarming to hear locals say they look forward to the Travel Mart."

And why shouldn't they? A thriving tourist trade is a boost to the local economy. "LGUs pin much hope on tourism," Alegre adds, ticking off a few "emerging" tourist destinations such as Cagayan Valley, Laoag, Quirino, Siargao and Bohol.

One could say that Filipinos, known to be a warm, hospitable people, are a natural for tourism, which is, after all, the business of serving visitors to one's place.

Besides showcasing domestic destinations, exhibitors also get to expand their network and forge tieups among themselves to develop tour packages, say, involving key cities of adjacent provinces.

The Travel Mart was originally a government project, handled by the Department of Tourism and conceived during the term of Mina Gabor in 1989. In 1994, unable to continue shouldering the huge expense, the DOT, then under Vicente Carlos, passed on the annual show to the private sector.

The Travel Mart has since been the flagship project of Philtoa, in partnership with the DOT. "The DOT regional directors encourage LGUs to participate, while our cultural attachés abroad help us tap foreign buyers," Alegre says.

Philtoa itself antedates the Travel Mart by three years, established on June 12, 1986, by tour operators and allied members advocating "responsible tourism." To date it has 180 members, more than half of whom are licensed tour operators mostly based in Metro Manila. The rest are allied members, such as hotels, resorts/inns, airlines, tourist transport companies, tour guide associations, restaurants, handicraft shops, convention/exhibition organizers and other tourism-oriented establishments and associations.

Another trade show is held earlier in the year, the Travel Trade Exhibition, organized by the Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA). This one, however, is geared toward the outbound market. But a couple of years ago, it started catering to the inbound/domestic market as well.

Inspired by the fire of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Philtoa and PTAA recently embarked on a joint landmark project, establishing the Federation of Tourism Industries of the Philippines Inc., the umbrella organization of tourism associations. The idea, Alegre says, is for the private sector "to close ranks and work in tandem with the DOT in order to break the perennial boom-and-bust cycle of our tourism arrivals."

His own dream, as a tour operator, is that "someday a foreigner can just come to our country, rent a car and travel on his own." But the big challenge for Philtoa and the Travel Mart is still getting more Filipinos to appreciate their own beautiful country.

'GOING PLACES'

Burias, an island off the Bicol coast, is among the featured spots in "Going Places," the first solo exhibit of travel writer and photographer Jude Thaddeus L. Bautista. It occupies pride of place not only in the show but also in the photographer's heart, it being his mother's hometown. Also featured are shots of Mt. Pinatubo and photos taken in Philippine provinces and in San Francisco and Hong Kong. The Epson-sponsored exhibit is on view at the Epson Showroom, 3rd floor SM Megamall, until Nov. 15.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Donation

NORTHWEST Airlines has announced that it would donate to the Philippine National Red Cross 10 percent of the fare from each World Business Class ticket purchased online at www.nwa.com/ph from Oct. 15 to Dec. 31.

The Red Cross will use the funds for the immediate and long-term relief of the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and their families. It has established a disaster relief fund and accepts blood donations and volunteer efforts from individuals, companies and foundations.

"We hope the proceeds from this campaign will help alleviate their suffering," said David Wookey, Northwest vice president for Asia.

For more information, visit www.nwa.com/ph.

Best airport

TRAVELERS have again voted Dubai International Airport as this year's Best International Airport in the world.

Voting through official ballots in the Conde Nast Traveler Magazine, travelers cited the Dubai airport for its shopping/duty-free facilities, pre-flight lounges and amenities, and access to major establishments during long transfers.

The criteria for judging the airport category were location, accessibility, design and layout, cleanliness, efficiency in check-in and transfers, flight information, clarity of signs, pre-flight facilities and amenities, restaurant food, shopping and duty-free facilities and spaciousness of parking areas.

Conde Nast gave 20 awards, including those for best airport, hotel, airline, cruise line and tour operator.

Tourism awards

WINNERS of the Singapore Tourism Board's 16th annual awards will be announced on Nov. 1 at the Stamford Ballroom of the Westin Stamford and Westin Plaza with Singaporean President S. R. Nathan as guest of honor. Tourism industry representatives and 400 finalists for 19 categories are expected to attend the event.

The awards are part of STB's strategy to upgrade service standards by recognizing exemplary individuals and companies in the industry. At the same time, the award ceremony is aimed at lifting the morale of an industry beset by the global crisis spawned by the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

"It is an honor that the president of Singapore will be gracing the Tourism Awards," said STB chief executive Yeo Khee Leng. "The tourism industry is currently facing a very challenging time. The Awards may not solve the current problems, but the evening will bring us all together and reinforce the camaraderie for which this industry is known. The STB firmly believes that there is no other time than now for all in the tourism industry to pull together and work toward recovery."

The number of public nominations received this year rose by 12 percent to more than 23,000. Of these, 41 percent were from foreign visitors. Nominations from Singapore residents showed a marginal increase of 2 percent.

Halloween treats

A WEEK-LONG Halloween celebration is on at the Legenda Hotel in Subic. Taking center stage at the Neptune Club are top stand-up comics Ate Gay and Inday Garutay, a ballroom costume party and the "Friday Nite-Out" from Oct. 29 to Nov. 3.

Patrons are invited to try Legenda's featured cocktail, Wizard's Potion, which is available at all F&B outlets.

The annual Trick or Treat for kids takes place at Le Café from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4. Prizes, including a holiday in Boracay, are up for grabs. For inquiries, call 732-9888.

* * *

The Hotel Inter-Continental in Makati City, is offering a special promo from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4: a de luxe room (single or double occupancy) at P2,900 per night inclusive of buffet breakfast or buffet lunch at the Café Jeepney.

On Oct. 31, patrons can chill out to the sounds of Blusssh and The Heat while partaking of special drinks and bar chow at Le Boulevardier. Or they can celebrate the witching hour with a dinner buffet of Asian favorites and nonstop ballroom dancing at the Bahia Rooftop Restaurant.

On Nov. 1-4, a Mongolian Barbecue meal for family and friends will be available at the Sol y Sombra Poolside Restaurant.

The Halloween room package promo is available for local residents only. Quoted rate is subject to 10.5 percent VAT and government tax and 10-percent service charge. Call 815-9711 local 373 to 377 for reservations.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Fashionable Coco launches new store

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

MALOU Violago loves to dress up Coco during Halloween. An obliging and good-natured model, Coco looks distinctively odd and strange in spooky outfits. She has portrayed The Devil and The Witch, on both occasions donning a black hood with a pointed hat like a witch ready to fly on her broom. As The Pumpkin, she put on an orange getup with an elasticized hat with the stems looped at her ears.

The hats are tied to the ears rather than around the neck so that Coco would not find herself entangled with it. Intrigued about Coco who makes such a big event of Halloween?

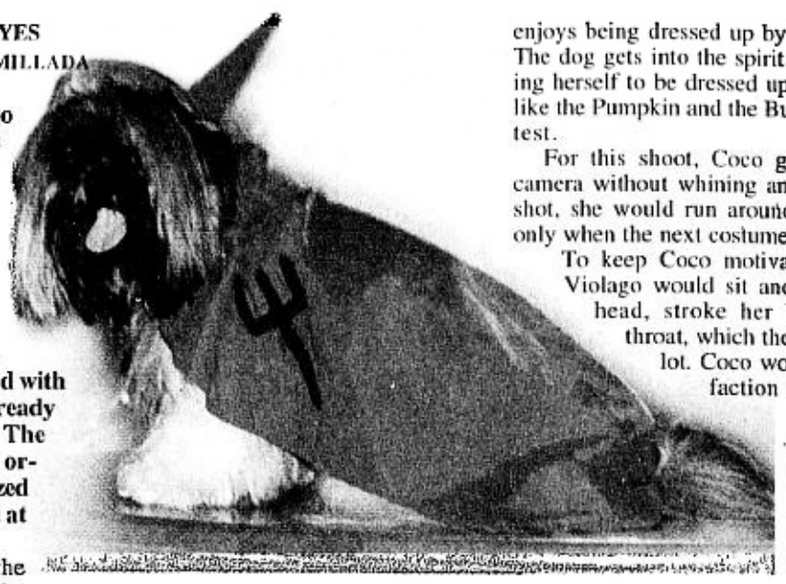
Coco is actually a 2-year-old Shih Tzu that enjoys being dressed up by her charming owner. The dog gets into the spirit of Halloween, allowing herself to be dressed up in peculiar costumes like the Pumpkin and the Bumblebee without protest.

For this shoot, Coco gamely posed for the camera without whining and fussing. After each shot, she would run around the house, stopping only when the next costume was ready for fitting.

To keep Coco motivated for the pictorial, Violago would sit and talk to her, pat her head, stroke her back and tickle her throat, which the dog seemed to like a lot. Coco would express her satisfaction by licking her mistress' hand.

Violago designed all of Coco's costumes and accessories. She has been dressing up her pet in fashionable clothes for two years now. "Coco was given to me by my fiancé as a Christmas gift," says the 27-year-old Violago. Boyfriend Ryan Tanjutco later said he looked for a special hat for the dog

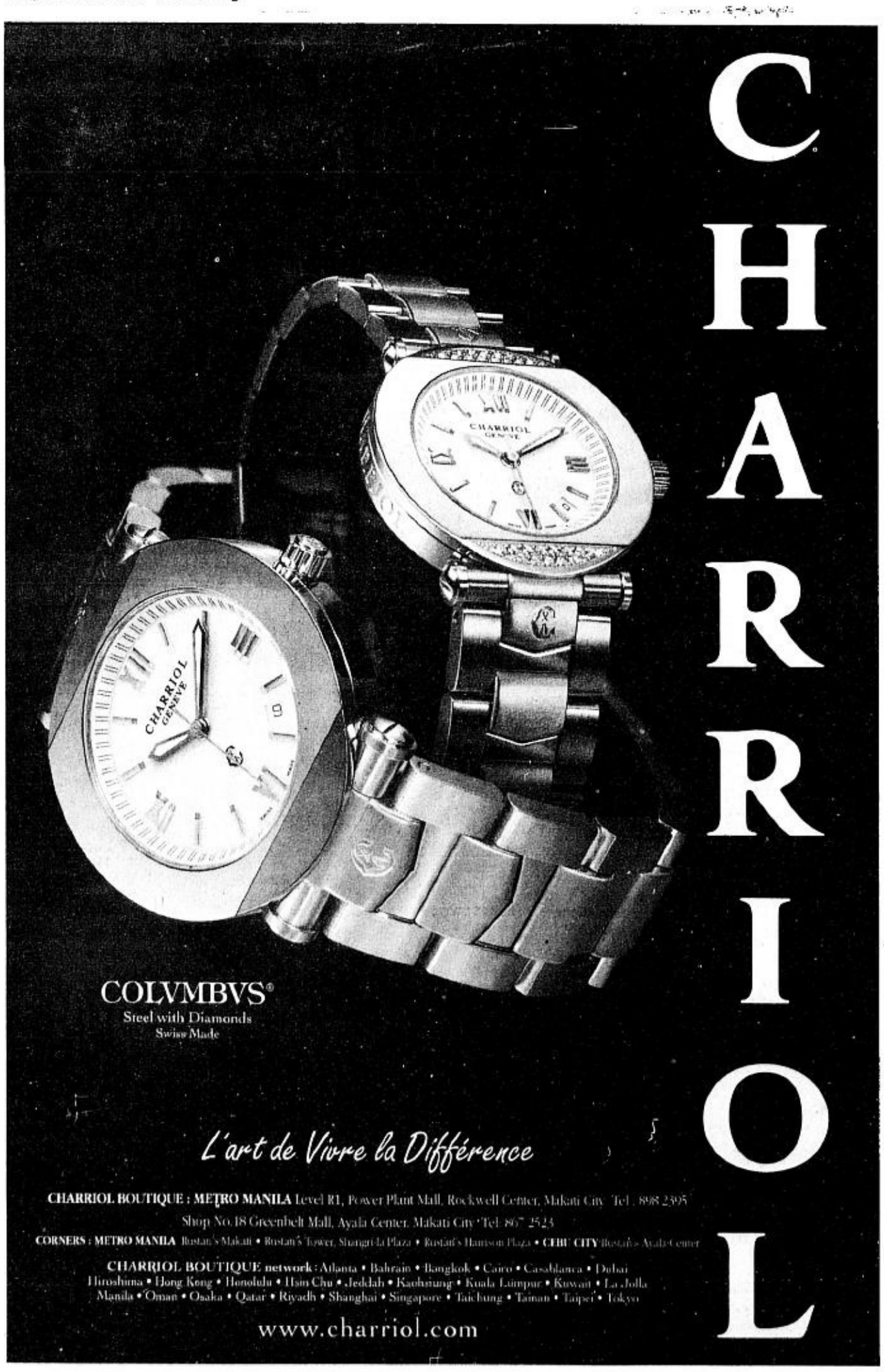
FASHIONABLE/ p.C2



2-YEAR-OLD Coco in a devil suit

SOON-TO-BE-MARRIED Malou Violago and Ryan Tanjutco with their "flower dog"

VIOLAGO with Santa Coco

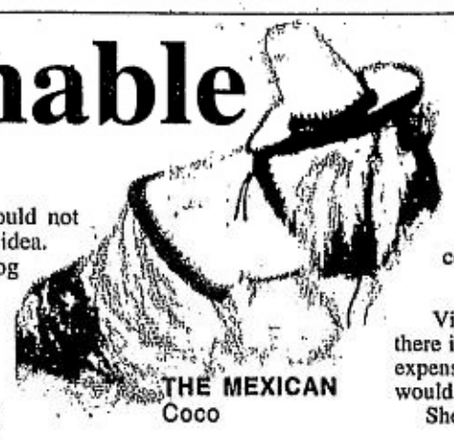


Fashionable Coco launches new store

(From page C1)

before giving it to Violago, but he could not find one. "I thought it was such a cute idea. Since then, I started looking for dog stuff."

Violago really pampers her pet. Every time she travels to the United States, she would come home with *balikbayan* boxes filled with food, chic dog clothes and other accessories for the dog. Her brother has gotten into the act of spoiling the canine, buying Coco signature items like Louis Vuitton dog collar and Gucci dogbone and Frisbee.



THE MEXICAN
Coco

Costly dog stuff

Violago admits she buys dog stuff abroad where there is a wide variety of good stuff although quite expensive. A dog shirt ranges from $50 to $70. She would later decide to make Coco's clothes herself.

She first designed a chic Chanel-style outfit in pink with gold buttons for her pet. When her friends and neighbors saw it, they started asking her to make similar outfits for their own pets. Violago obliged and made several sets until the clothes were all sold out.

"Basically, Filipinos are animal lovers," Violago observes. "We just don't know where to get pet stuff. When I was younger, I didn't take care of my pets. I thought it was boring. Now that I've been dressing up Coco, I feel like I'm closer to her. She's like my baby."

Coco's place

The fashionable Coco has given rise to a new enterprise. For the first time in the Philippines, pets can now be as fashionable as humans. Violago is soon putting up a specialty store for pets, which will sell costumes for cats and dogs and other accessories.

"I know it's such as small niche in the market as of now. But once people are educated on how to treat animals and how we should take care of them, they will be aware that our pets are also like human beings."

Coco's Pet Place will open in December at the Violago Compound on E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC. Violago will feature costumes made of 1000percent cotton, which will protect them from the pet's attempt to tear them up with their claws. Tuxedo, Mexican and bumblebee costumes will be among the designs on sale. Already available for Halloween are The Devil, The Witch, The Pumpkin costumes. All sizes are available from the big Labrador to a small puppy. (Call 910-7888 or 633-6251.)

For Christmas, Violago will have reindeer antlers, dwarf and clown costumes. After Christmas, she's featuring superhero outfits like Superman and Batman.

The store will also be selling ceramic dog bowls, scarves, customized sofa-bed, hats, doghouse and rubber plates and mats. In addition, the specialty store will have pet grooming and training as well as photography services.

Violago will also have a bakery that will serve freshly baked cookies and cakes to your pet. Good friend Pixie Sevilla of Forget Me Not is the consultant for the bakeshop.

For pet lovers, Malou says: "Treat your pets like humans. They also have feelings. In fact, they reciprocate the love you give them 10 times over. Every day they long for you and always want to be there with you. It's different when you have a bonding with your pet."

Violago has established an amazing bond with Coco. In fact, her pet will be part of her wedding in Cebu next year. Coco will be "flower dog" and will be wearing a Joe Salazar gown. "I dress up pets so I can't bear to see Coco bare on my wedding day," Violago says.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

COCO in a tuxedo is given a dog treat by her master.

COCO with The Witch (Dhorie Geronimo)

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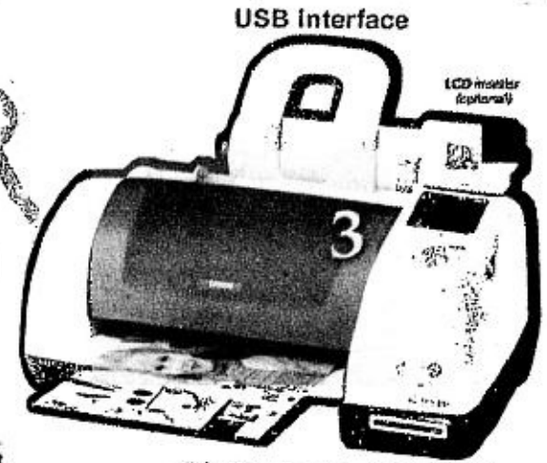

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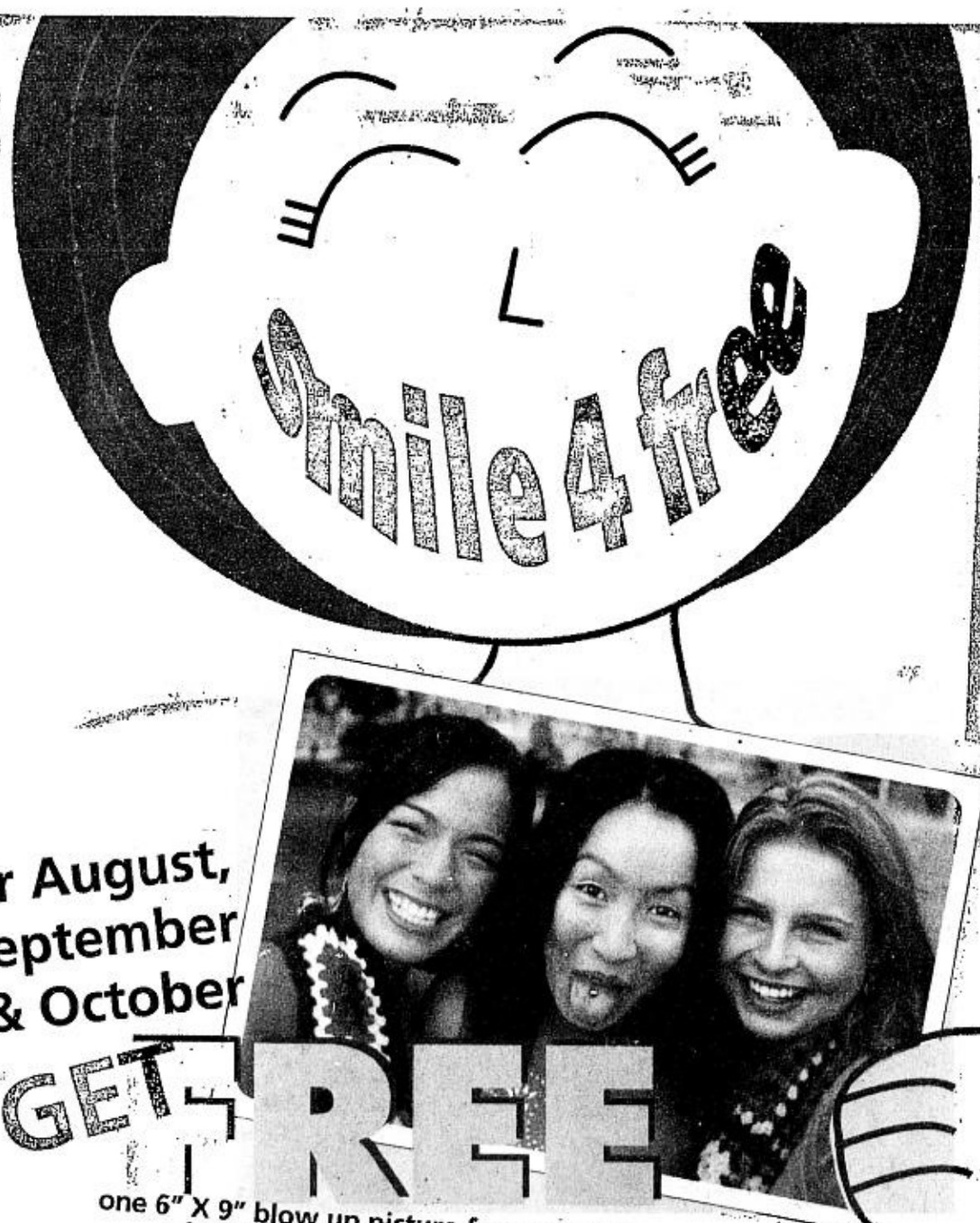

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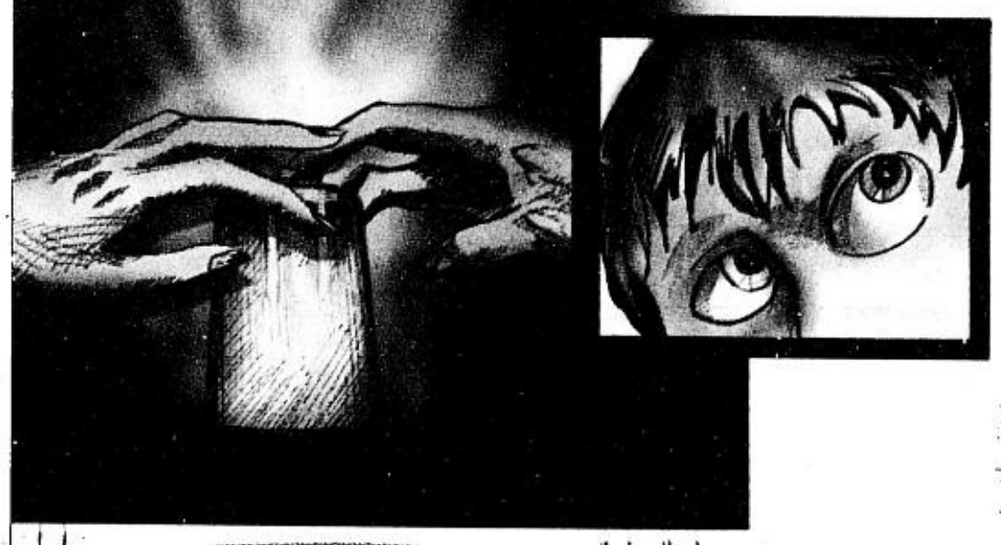

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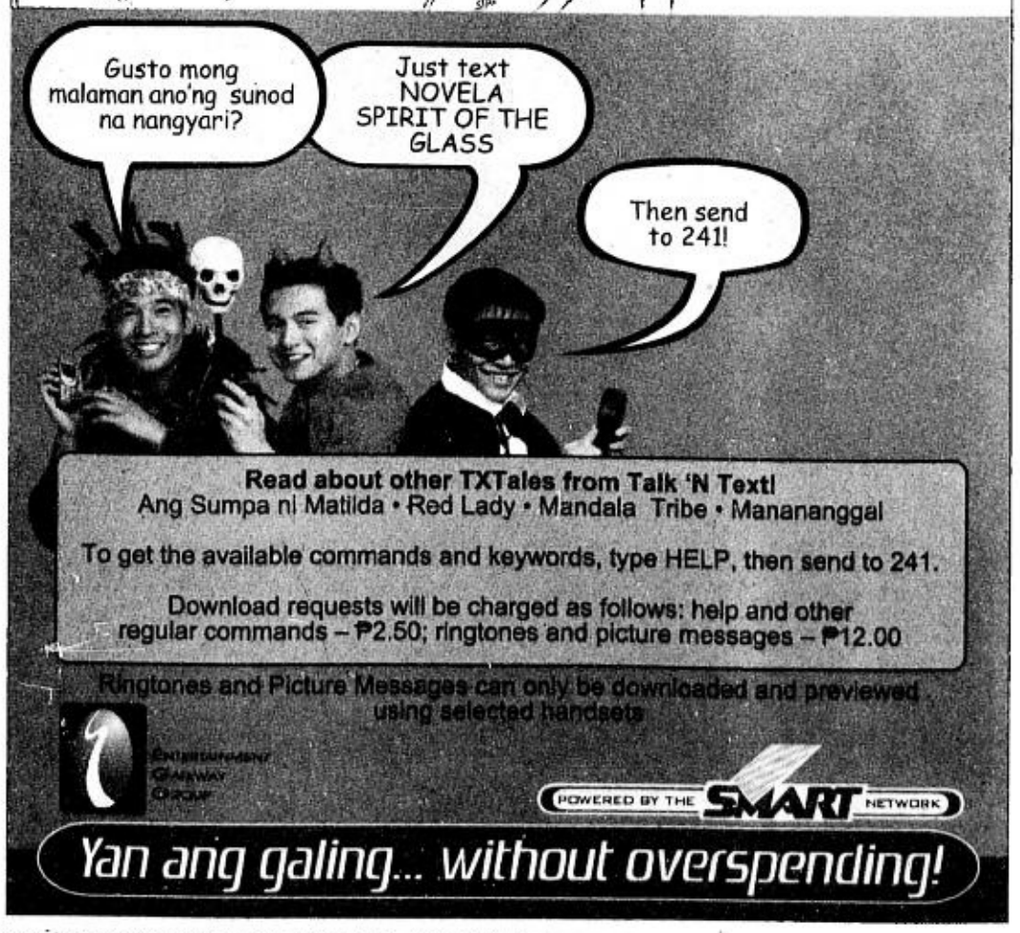
Sino ang espiritung sumapi sa baso?
Sino kaya ang killer ni Marj?



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Use ordinary clothes for Halloween costumes

By Mawi Fojas de Ocampo

MAKEUP artists, moms, a couple of *yayas* and six kids gathered recently at photographer Emil Esguerra's studio for Metro Working Mom's fashion pictorial. Halloween was the theme, and stylist Lizanne Alcazaren was busy converting pieces of clothing, scarves, belts and other accessories into costumes for trick-or-treating.

If you're a mom, you know how the search for Halloween costumes for your kids turns frantic when Oct. 31 is just around the corner.

Instead of raiding stores, get ideas from a behind-the-scenes peek into the kids' photo shoot and whip up great ensembles from items in your closet (it wouldn't hurt to check out *lola*'s closet either). Add some inventive makeup and quirky accessories and your kid is ready to go trick or treating.

As oriental "Charlie's Angels," girls dressed up in Chinese-style silk pajamas (one in a cheongsam) and bedroom slippers. Chopsticks finished the look.

One of the kids became the little wizard Harry Potter by using nothing else but a black cape (may be fashioned from extra-large trash bags), toy spectacles and a *walis tambo*.

Another kid, Andoni, became Captain Hook with his plastic sword and eye patch. His ensemble consisted of a striped shirt, leather pants and a bandana. Ordinary black pants would also do instead of leather pants.

Another bandana turned a little girl into a gypsy. The rest of the outfit was just as simple: a balloon skirt trimmed with dangling shimmery accents wrapped around the waist with a tie-dye scarf, plus hoop earrings for that quintessential gypsy look.

The little Indian girl dressed in a simple beige halter dress with ethnic trimming at the hem and neckline. An improvised chicken-feather headdress and ethnic anklet completed the look.

Wendy the Witch was un-traditionally garbed in black skirt, scarf and chiffon veil from her mommy's wardrobe, although the socks had red stripes. Specially made for the costume was a black pointy hat.

The costumes the kids wore did not involve any splurging. All that was needed was imagination—and some of your own clothes for a little improvisation.

WENDY the Witch dons black

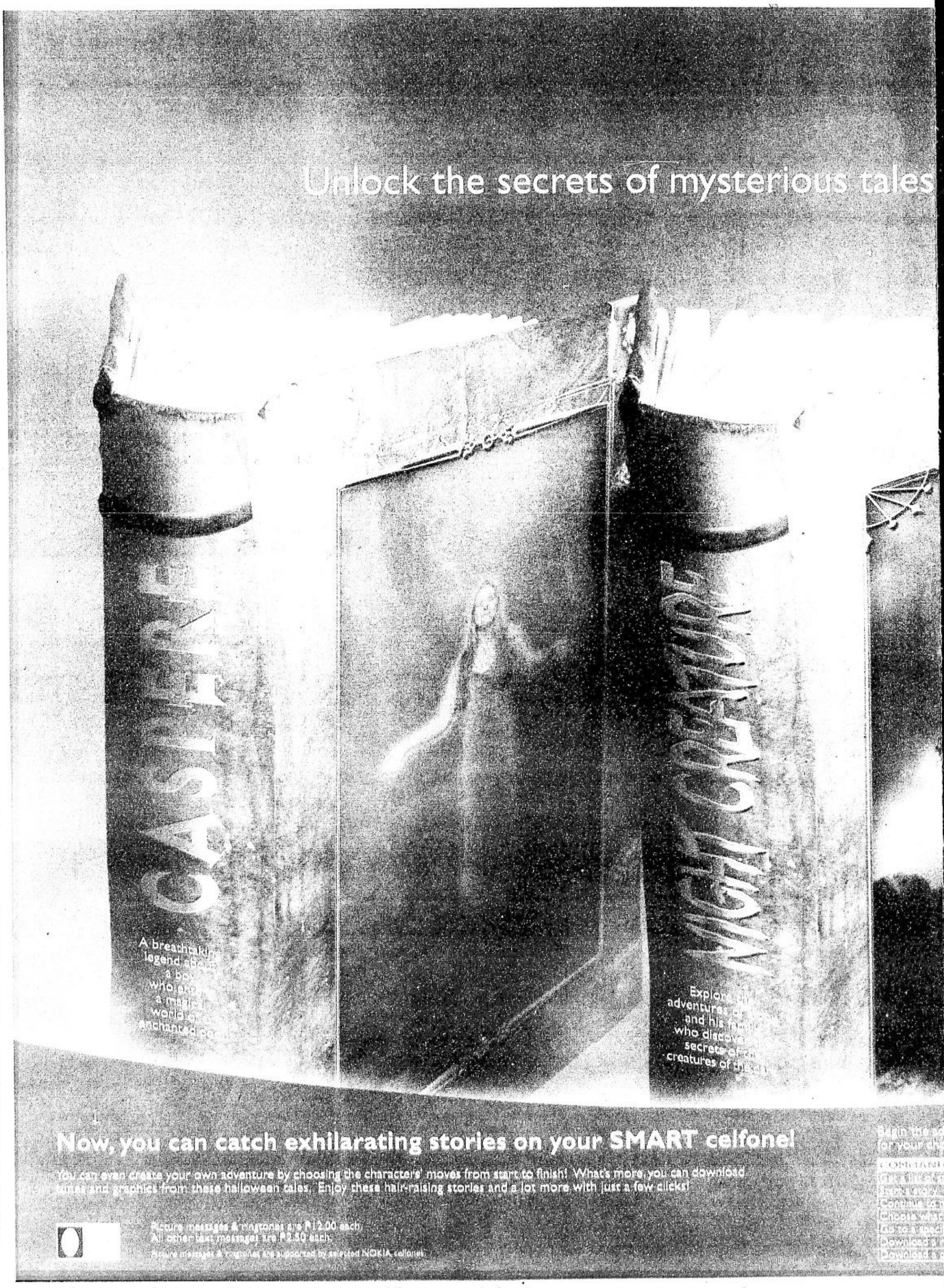
EASIEST and mime-boggling costume

Dress up your kid as a little Indian girl, a pirate, or even Esmeralda for trick-or-treating without spending a fortune

PHOTOS BY EMIL ESGUERRA
BEHIND THE SCENES PHOTOS BY MIKE ALCAZAREN

AHOY, PIRATE!

ESMERALDA, without the hunchback



LITTLE Mermaid and Alladin go trick or treating.

Get into the Halloween mood with right stuff

GET the right fright stuff for Halloween from SM Department Store and Toy Kingdom.

You have a wide range of costumes—Wizard, Witch, Vampire Girl, Clown of Doom, Little Mermaid, Aladdin, Queen of the Nile and King of Egypt—to choose from. Also available are pumpkin baskets, monster masks, horrific hats, ghoulish lamps, creepy cobwebs and spiders.

Happy haunting activities have also been lined up at SM malls like face-painting today at 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; witch hat and mask-making on Oct. 29, at 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Faber Castell holds a draw and color activity on Oct. 30. Kids can atttend Halloween Party on Oct. 31 wearing their best scary costume for a chance to win exciting prizes for the most original, most creative, funniest and spookiest costumes in the Halloween costume contest. Also scheduled for 10 a.m. is the trick or treat activity.

Free kiddie meal

T.G.I. Friday's encourages kids to come in their spookiest costumes on Oct. 31 and enjoy their favorite Friday's kiddie meal for free. Magicians will deliver more tricks and treats at all branches starting at 4 p.m.

SCARY IDEAS

HAVE a fright puppet show with Hallmark's shaking ghosts and other scary ideas you can pick up at Hallmark's Halloween Corners in all National Bookstore branches and other major stores nationwide.

Make your own pizza

AT ITALIANNI'S Bakery and Café, kids who come trick or treatin' in their scariest or wackiest costumes get to make their own pizzas—for free. Bags of goodies await them on Oct. 31. Drop by Italianni's Bakery and Café at the 2/L of Glorietta IV.

Ladies' fun time

OUTBACK Restaurant treats the ladies to a fun time at the bar this All Hallows Eve. From 8 p.m. onward on Oct. 31, all ladies at the bar will enjoy a choice between the new mango-flavored Wallaby Darned or the Gold Coast 'Rita for free.

Outback Restaurant has branches at Glorietta IV, Makati City; Libis, Quezon City and Alabang Town Center.

Masquerade ball

AT HOLIDAY Inn Resort Clark Field, enjoy a gourmet dining with a twist. Give your kids a frighteningly enjoyable Halloween experience or dance the night away.

"The Masquerade: A Ballroom Dancing Night," will be held on Oct. 29 at 8 p.m.

On Oct. 31, at 3 p.m., it will be "Nightmare on Mimosa Drive," a trick-or-treat adventure for kids visiting with their families. "Murder Mystery Dinner" is on Halloween night, 6 p.m. at Mequeni Café.

Avail of the long Halloween weekend package for local residents or the Clarky Play package. Call 845-1888 or (045) 599-8000.

Treat for costumed kids

HARD Rock Cafe presents a special treat for young kids at 11 a.m.-3 p.m. today. With the theme "Masquerade," children are encouraged to go to HRC in cute costumes. The first 100 kids (aged 7 years and below) will get a free HRC T-shirt, a personalized button and goody bag. Call HRC at 893-4661 to 63.

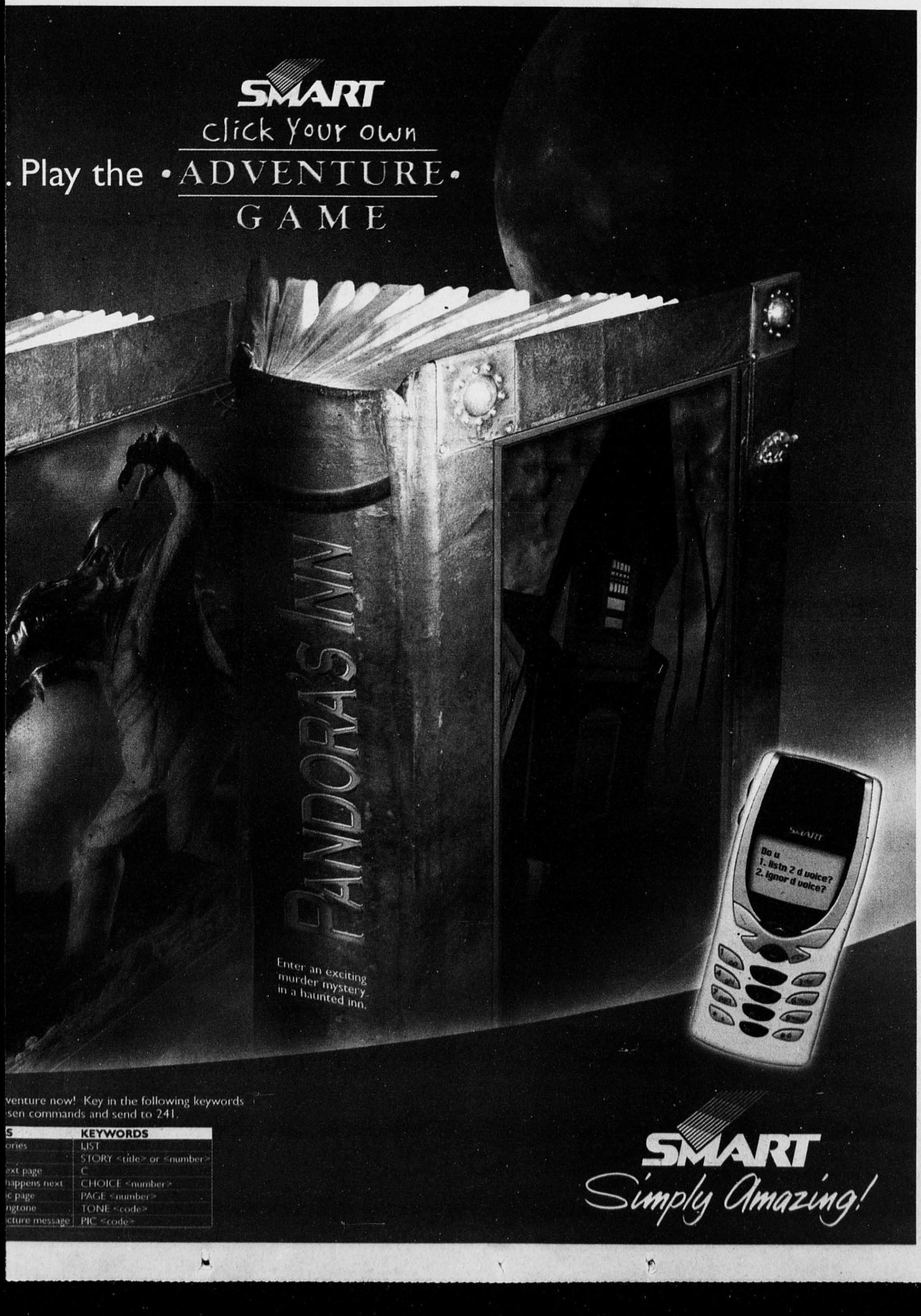
Long-weekend package

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza offers an overnight room rate for only P2,500 net (inclusive of taxes and service charge) for Nov. 2 and 3, then at half the rate of only P1,250 net (inclusive of taxes and service charge) if guests stay until Nov. 4.

The first 100 kids from families availing of the promo will get a candy loot bag of Nestlé goodies: Cornflakes, Honeystars cereals, Boom Boom lollipops and Smartees. Call (632) 832-6991 to 95, (632) 551-5555 or fax (632) 832-6996 or e-mail: reservat@westin.com.

Storytelling

CELEBRATE Halloween at the Discovery Suites on Oct. 31. Entitled "All Hallow's Eve," the event is open to everyone free of charge. The fun begins at 5 p.m. at Café Berrio. Trick-or-treat participants will be treated to a storytelling session while enjoying Halloween snacks. Adults can have fun at the Masquerade Ball at the Serendipity Lounge at 8:30 p.m. A special prize will be given to the guest with the best costume.



Brew of goodies

FOR HALLOWEEN, let the San Miguel Food Group Culinary Center show you a brew of goodies to make the evening even more terrifying. Sample the Eyeball Buckets with Honey Mustard Sauce, and Howlers and Shrills Cheesecake with caution. You never know what the creatures of the night have in store for you.

Howlers and Shrills Cheesecake

Crust:

2 c chocolate cookie crumbs, crushed
6 tbsp Magnolia butter, melted

Filling:

1 pack Magnolia cream cheese, softened
¼ c sugar
1 tbsp unflavored gelatin
3 tbsp full-cream milk
1 c all-purpose cream, chilled
½ c chocolate cookies, coarsely chopped

Topping:

½ c chocolate cookies, coarsely chopped

To make crust, mix chocolate crumbs and melted Anchor butter. Then press onto a 10" springform removable bottom pan. Chill.

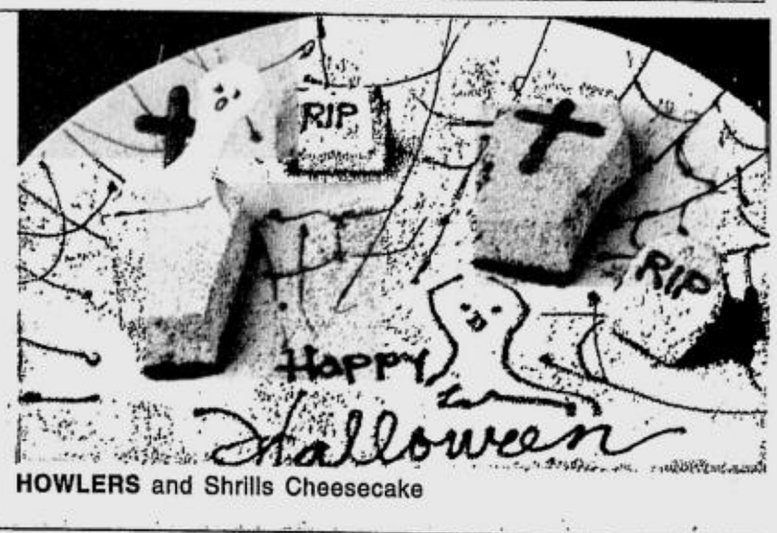
For filling, beat cream cheese and sugar until light and well blended. Dissolve unflavored gelatin in milk over low heat and add to beaten cream cheese while still hot. Continue beating to blend well. In a separate bowl, whip cream until stiff and fold into cream cheese mixture. Fold in coarsely chopped chocolate cookies. Pour into crumb-lined pan. Chill until set.

Top with coarsely chopped chocolate cookies. Makes 12 slices. Use any store-bought chocolate cookie with cream filling, crush to make fine crumbs.

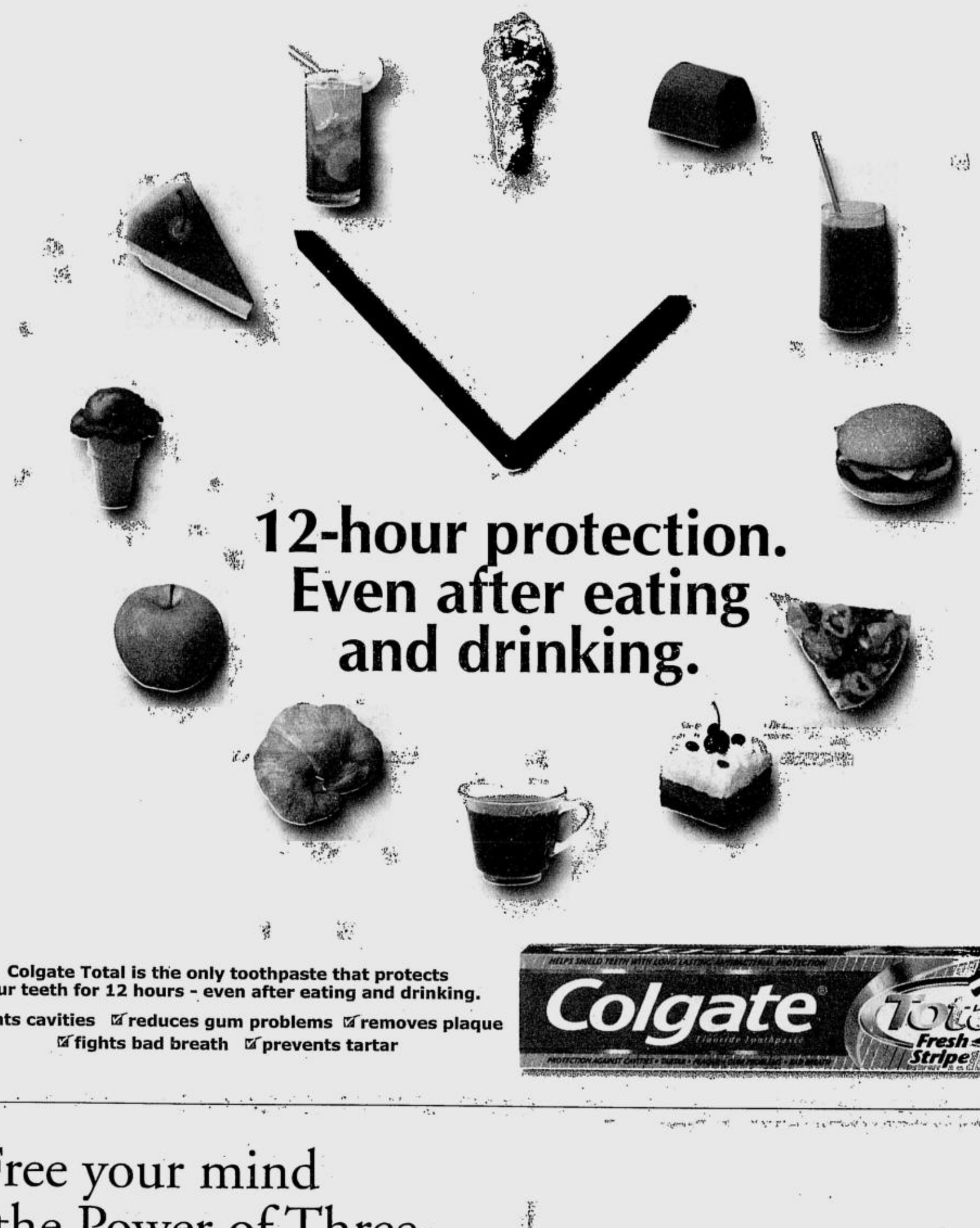
Eyeball Buckets with Honey-Mustard Sauce

1 225 g Magnolia Chicken Popcorn, fried

BREW/ p.C7



HOWLERS and Shrills Cheesecake



Colgate Total is the only toothpaste that protects your teeth for 12 hours - even after eating and drinking.

☑ fights cavities ☑ reduces gum problems ☑ removes plaque
☑ fights bad breath ☑ prevents tartar

Free your mind with the Power of Three

Our everyday grind pushes us to the limit. The workplace breeds stress and pressure. And for most of us, the home is a haven from all the hustle and bustle. This is where we loosen up, be ourselves and spend quality moments with the family. It is the place where peace and utmost safety should reign. That is why every happy home should be a healthy home.

Be it our kitchen, bedrooms, or bathrooms, our families must be constantly safeguarded from bacteria that reside in the most unexpected places. When there's a sudden spill on the table, when the trashcan is turned over, or when our family pet leaves a not-so-pleasant trail, our ordinary cleaning habits cannot ensure that a particular area is devoid of micro-organisms that bring about infection.

Most often or not, when we see a surface as spotless, we readily conclude that it is germ-free. There is a need to correct such assumption simply because what we see is not necessarily what we get.

For all-around home hygiene, trust the world leader in disinfection, Lysol.

Now cleaning, disinfecting and deodorizing our homes become easy with New Lysol Antibacterial Fragrancing Cleaner. It eliminates dirt, grime and grease. It kills 99.9% of disease-causing germs even when diluted in water. It even leaves a reassuring fresh scent.

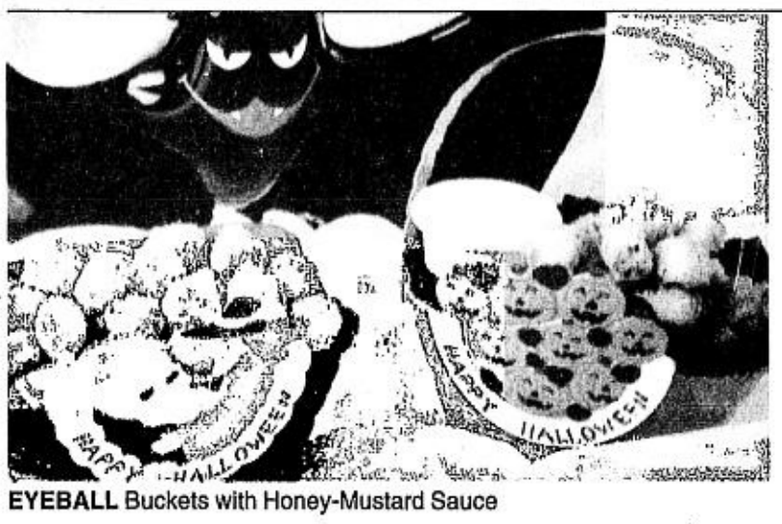
With New Lysol Antibacterial Fragrancing Cleaner, dirt is out of sight, stench is out of smelling scope and germs definitely out of reach. One can now relax with the thought that the family is well taken care of. No doubt, a healthy home is a Lysol home.

lavander *lemon* *pine*

For comments and inquiries, e-mail us at feedbackph@reckitthenckiser.com

See no evil.

New Lysol Antibacterial Fragrancing **Cleaner.**



EYEBALL Buckets with Honey-Mustard Sauce

Brew of goodies

(From page C6)

Honey Mustard Sauce:
½ c mayonnaise
½ c all-purpose cream
2 tbsp honey
1 tbsp mustard

Cook chicken popcorn according to package direction. Set aside. Mix together mayonnaise, cream, honey and mustard to make honey-mustard sauce. Serve chicken popcorn with sauce.

Loot bags for kids

ON OCT. 31, all kids visiting Sbarro outlets at SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Manila, Festival Mall and Glorietta will automatically get special loot bags containing chocolates, candies, etc. Special gifts await children who will come in Halloween costume.

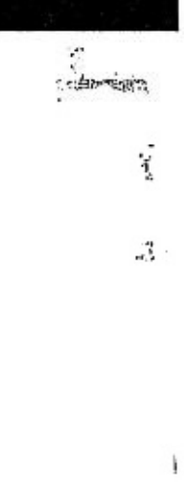
'PASALUBONG NG BAYAN'

DUNKIN' Donuts, "Pasalubong ng Bayan," gives its customers a treat this Halloween. Only P15 each, the Dunkin' Donuts Halloween Fancies come in three designs: Lady Pumpkin, Boo Boo Ghost and Lady Witch. Promo ends Nov. 4.

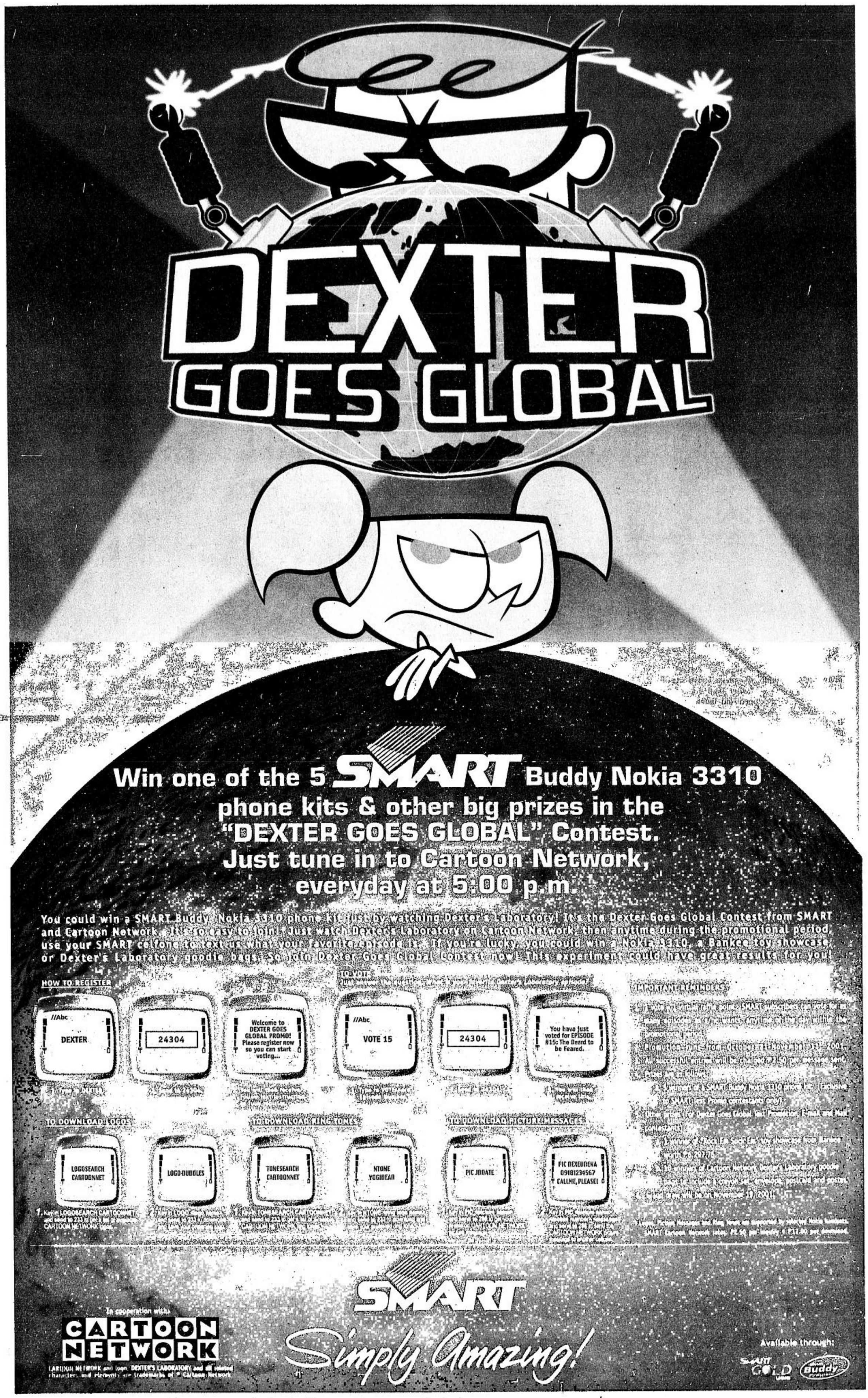
Smell no evil.

New Lysol Antibacterial **Fragrancing** Cleaner.

Touch no evil.



New Lysol **Antibacterial** Fragrancing Cleaner.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Win one of the 5 SMART Buddy Nokia 3310
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Just tune in to Cartoon Network,
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You could win a SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 phone kit just by watching Dexter's Laboratory! It's the Dexter Goes Global Contest from SMART and Cartoon Network. It's so easy to join! Just watch Dexter's Laboratory on Cartoon Network, then anytime during the promotional period, use your SMART cellfone to text us what your favorite episode is. If you're lucky, you could win a Nokia 3310, a Bankee toy showcase or Dexter's Laboratory goodie bags. So join Dexter Goes Global Contest now! This experiment could have great results for you!
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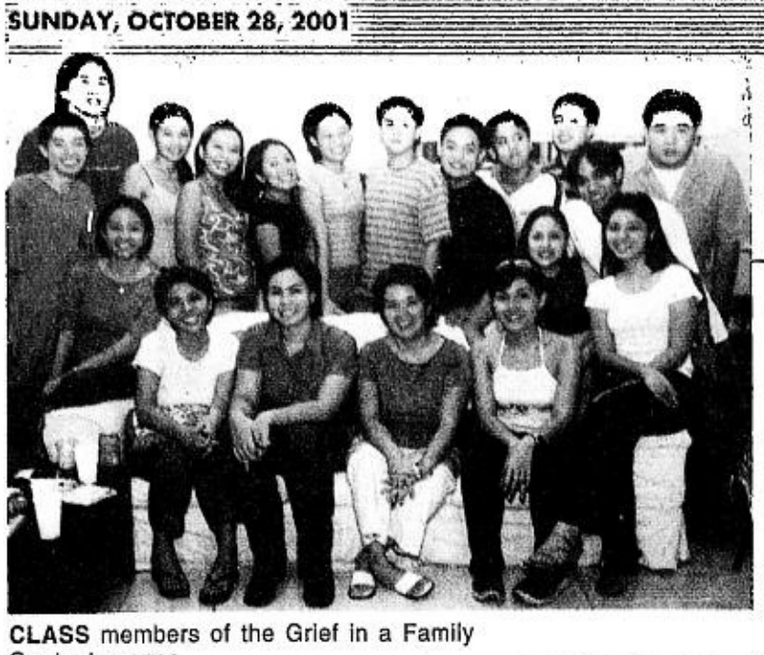

CLASS members of the Grief in a Family Context course

Good Grief

Perhaps the greatest gift the course brought to many of them was to give them the ability to process their own losses and move on from there

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

FILIPINOS normally do not want to talk about death and dying. Though as a people we are quick to condole or sympathize when someone is ill or has died, we are averse to dwelling on subjects that deal with mortality.

"*Huwag na lang iyan, malungkot*," is a line often heard when the talk turns to someone's illness or death. Clearly, it is a cultural thing. When my little boy died three years ago, I drew support mainly from family and a few select friends but there was hardly any professional help or institutional support for parents grieving the loss of a child. I turned to sites on the Internet and to books for help in understanding the grieving process.

"Bibliotherapy" was very helpful in getting me through that first crucial year. In the course of my studies, I stumbled upon the University of Indiana's "Dynamics of Grief in a Family Context" program. Developed and taught by Dr. Kathleen Gilbert, it's very title immediately attracted me to the program. For six months last year, I found myself poring through a vast amount of material on death and dying, grief and loss and immersed myself in the world of Thanatology, the study or science of the experience of dying and bereavement. People in many societies all over the world have long speculated about death but the systematic study of the experience of dying and subsequent bereavement is a recent development. Having experienced the death of loved ones twice in my life, I was very much drawn to understanding the bereavement process and how one could successfully move on after a loss. I also hoped to be able to share with others the truth that grief in itself can, in a sense, be a good thing and how they could move on after a loss.

Limited experience

In June this year I taught a pilot class on "The Dynamics of Grief in a Family Context" at the Ateneo de Manila University to junior and senior college students. The course was under the current issues program of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. I was nervous at first, thinking that no one would enroll in a course that dealt with the nature of grief. I thought that the subject would be alien to a 19- or 20-year-old Atenean. I wondered if I could get even at least 12 students. Due to the sensitivity and nature of the subject, I deliberately requested for a small class, 18-20 students maximum.

Surprisingly, I ended up with a class of 22

GOOD/ p.D2

BALLOON THERAPY. Setting our sadness free.

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SMART IDD 40¢ a minute
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Give your loved ones abroad a trick or treat call.
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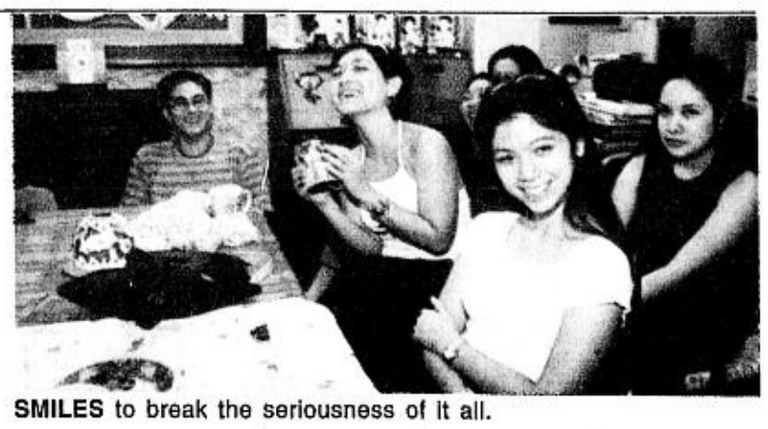
SHARING one's experience of grief.

GRIEF is like a candle...


SMILES to break the seriousness of it all.

Good Grief

(From page D1)

composed of 12 young women and 10 young men. On our first meeting, I had misgivings about what type of grief stories to expect from such a young group. Their experiences of grief were limited mainly to the death of a grandparent, the loss of a friend, or the pain of parents' separation. At the start I did not think there was going to be much "meat" to chew on in terms of life experiences. As the class evolved, I was sorely mistaken.

The class ran for 14 weeks covering a gamut of topics. They ranged from the definition of grieving as opposed to mourning, to how different family members experience the same kind of loss, to gender differences and grieving patterns among men and women, grief in childhood, loss of a child, grieving practices in other cultures, sudden infant death syndrome, the hospice system, pet loss, disenfranchised grief, ambiguous grief, chronic grief, anticipatory grief, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and ceremonies to help the grieving process.

My students initially could not believe that grief could have many faces and that, for all the sadness that came with it, grief was actually normal and good. Many of them enrolled in the course expecting nothing. After 14 weeks, they had collected a wealth of knowledge and developed a compassion toward the grieving and the ability to process the sadness that lay within.

A major learning tool of the course was the writing of reflection papers. They had to do a huge amount of reading and were required to submit reflection papers practically every week for the first half of the semester. The students also watched films that tackled the grief experience—"Deep End of the Ocean" and "Tanging Yaman," to cite a few.

I really got to know the heart of my students, through their reflection papers, as they willingly and openly shared their life stories with me. Many times, as I checked their papers, I would stop because some of the things being shared were too personal, some of them heartbreaking. Often, just as my heart was starting to feel so heavy, I would suddenly break into a smile as I read an anecdote. Their young faces belied the joy and sadness that many of them kept within.

Profound thoughts

One thing that surprised me was how deep and profound their thoughts were. I had gone to the same university 15 years ago and did not recall possessing such angst. Perhaps it was the nature of the subject or the fact that today's youth are exposed to so much and have become much more open. Nevertheless, I was awed by some of their reflections and touched by the love they showed for their parents (the boys in my class were especially very caring of their mothers) and of grandparents who had gone on to a better place.

In a most intriguing coincidence, when the tragedy of Sept. 11 occurred, we were discussing tragedy and PTSD, a psychological condition that may affect people who have suffered severe emotional trauma, for example, combat, crime or natural disaster, and can result in sleep disturbance, flashbacks, anxiety, tiredness and depression. One of their take-home exams was to look into the case of a particular survivor or fatality from the attack on the World Trade Center and relate it to their readings on PTSD. Certainly, the events that shook the world that week hit close to home in our discussions.

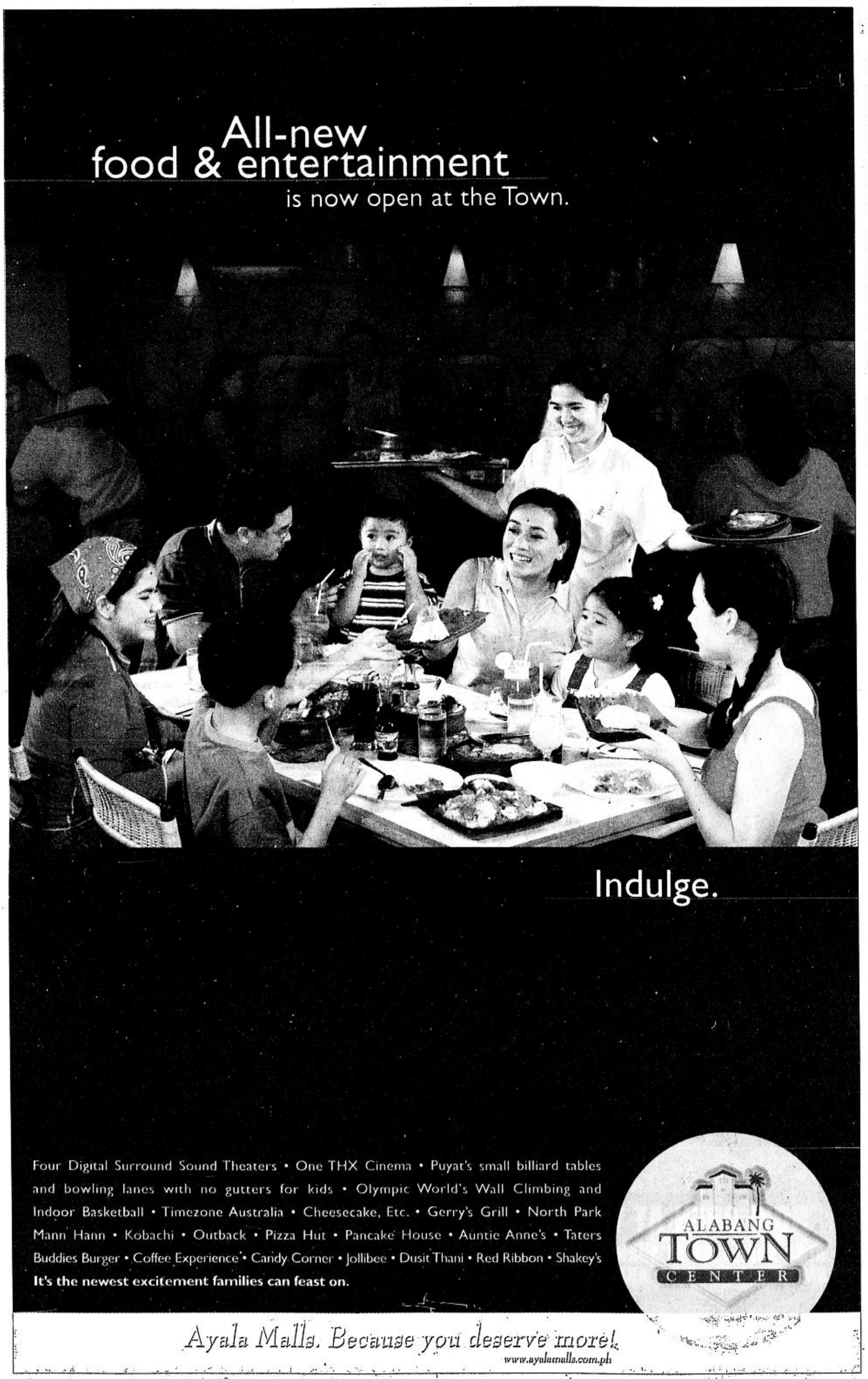
Toward the end of the semester, one of their last activities was a visit to either a children's ward in a government hospital or the Cupertino School for Special Children. For many of them, it was an activity they would never forget. Practically all the boys had gone to school at the Ateneo de Manila high school, which was only separated by a fence from Cupertino. For these young men, it was their first time to visit the special school on the other side of the fence. In their papers they talked about their uncertainty about, even fear of, what to expect at Cupertino. Some of them said they felt it was an activity that just had to be gotten over and done with.

After spending an hour and a half (it was supposed to be only a half-hour activity) with the children who either had autism, cerebral palsy or mental retardation, they all agreed that their lives had been changed forever. One of them wrote in his paper, "Who is to say that we are better off than these children? They seem, in fact, to be happier than we are—free from having to experience pain, sadness and suffering. At the end of the day, it is they who are more blessed than us." One student, who had an aversion to children, said, "I came away from the experience with a compassion for these children that I did not previously have and I am a better person because of it."

Most memorable

Owing to the seriousness of the subjects being tackled in class, I decided to hold a non-traditional lesson for our final meeting. This, I later realized from their comments, was the class they found most memorable and enjoyed the most. The discussions for this final class centered on ceremonies and rituals, and how they help in the grief process. Ritual and ceremony concretize

GOOD/ p.D3



New Food and Entertainment for the entire family now open at the Town.

Great shopping. Fun and free concerts. The best deals. Fantastic view from inside and outside our mall. Quality time with family and friends. All these and more as the Alabang Town Center proudly opens its new Entertainment Complex.

Definitely one of a kind, it gives the entire family the chance to pick not only from hundreds of stores, but also from a unique and excellent mix of all-new food and entertainment. Families can now enjoy watching the latest flicks and get crystal-clear sounds from any of four-state-of-the-art digital surround sound theaters, and the first and only THX cinema in the South.

Still craving for more? Now there are even more deliciously affordable restaurants to satisfy the biggest and hungriest appetites. Filipino, Chinese, Australian, Thai, sit down, or fastfood, whatever you're in the mood for, Gerry's Grill, North Park, Mann Hann, Outback, Pizza Hut, Pancake House, Auntie Anne's, Taters, Candy Corner, Jollibee, and Dusit Thani are now ready to serve you.

And if that's not enough, get top entertainment when you go wall climbing or play indoor basketball at Olympic Village. Or play the coolest video games and win awesome prizes at Timezone Australia.

Last but not least, every kid's a winner when you take them to Puyat Bowling and Billiards. Aside from our regular tables, we've got small billiard tables for the young ones to play on. And we're also introducing bumper bowling, the first-ever kid-friendly lanes that come without gutters.

So bring your family to the Town and have your fill. It's an exciting new experience you shouldn't miss.

The Ayala Malls, always giving you more because you simply deserve it.

GINA de Venecia (extreme right) participates in the groundbreaking for the Victorias Investment Center and Victorias Women Resource Center in Bacolod City with Mayor Remedios Bantug (second from right) and some congressional spouses.

FELLOWSHIP TIME. The congressional spouses honor birthday celebrators in one of their meetings.

COLLOQUIUM ON THERESE OF LISIEUX HELD

Toledo-based lawyer Jimmy Malanyaon Jr. (extreme right) recently attended the five-day Colloquium on Therese of Lisieux, Apostle of the New Evangelization, at the Crypt of the St. Therese Basilica in Lisieux, France. Malanyaon, who studied French at the Alliance Francaise in Toledo, Ohio, was invited by Bishop Guy Gaucher (second from left) of Lisieux and Bayeux to the five-day conference. Lecturers included Bishop Gaucher, who spoke of the missionary prayer of St. Therese; Bishop Ramon Arguelles (extreme left) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who spoke on the pastoral and spiritual joys of the coming of St. Therese to Asia and the Philippines; and Prof. Nobuko Iyori (second from right) of Japan's Sofia University, who discussed "Therese in the Country of the Rising Sun."

Haven marks 6th anniversary

THE HAVEN, a halfway house for battered women in Alabang, celebrated its sixth anniversary recently.

The simple ceremonies were graced by Speaker and Ms Jose de Venecia and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman. The Haven serves as a sanctuary for women who are physically and mentally abused with crimes such as rape, incest, involuntary prostitution, illegal recruitment, domestic violence and abandonment by spouses or parents.

Ms De Venecia built The Haven, as she recognized the urgent need for a center for the protection of women. Inaugurated on Sept. 30, 1995, the construction of The Haven and its 13 regional satellite centers was funded by De Venecia, during his previous stint as speaker of the ninth and 10th Congresses.

The Haven consists of several dormitories, a multipurpose center, an administration office, an air-conditioned nursery and a skill's training center. So far, it has successfully rehabilitated more than 5,000 abused women.

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Gina de Venecia and Claudine Zialcita cuddle babies at The Haven.

Good Grief

(From page D2)

the grief experience for every individual, especially for children. It is an important step for closure and for moving on.

At the last meeting, we performed several rituals, the first activity being a sharing of their creative representations of grief. Their symbols ranged from a butterfly, to paintings, to a collection of mementos from an old boyfriend, to a dry leaf, to a jacket, to a *lolo*'s old medallion or money found in a *lola*'s pocket, to a snow globe and drawings of the changing seasons. Each one explained what the symbol meant to him/her and how they related it to the grief process.

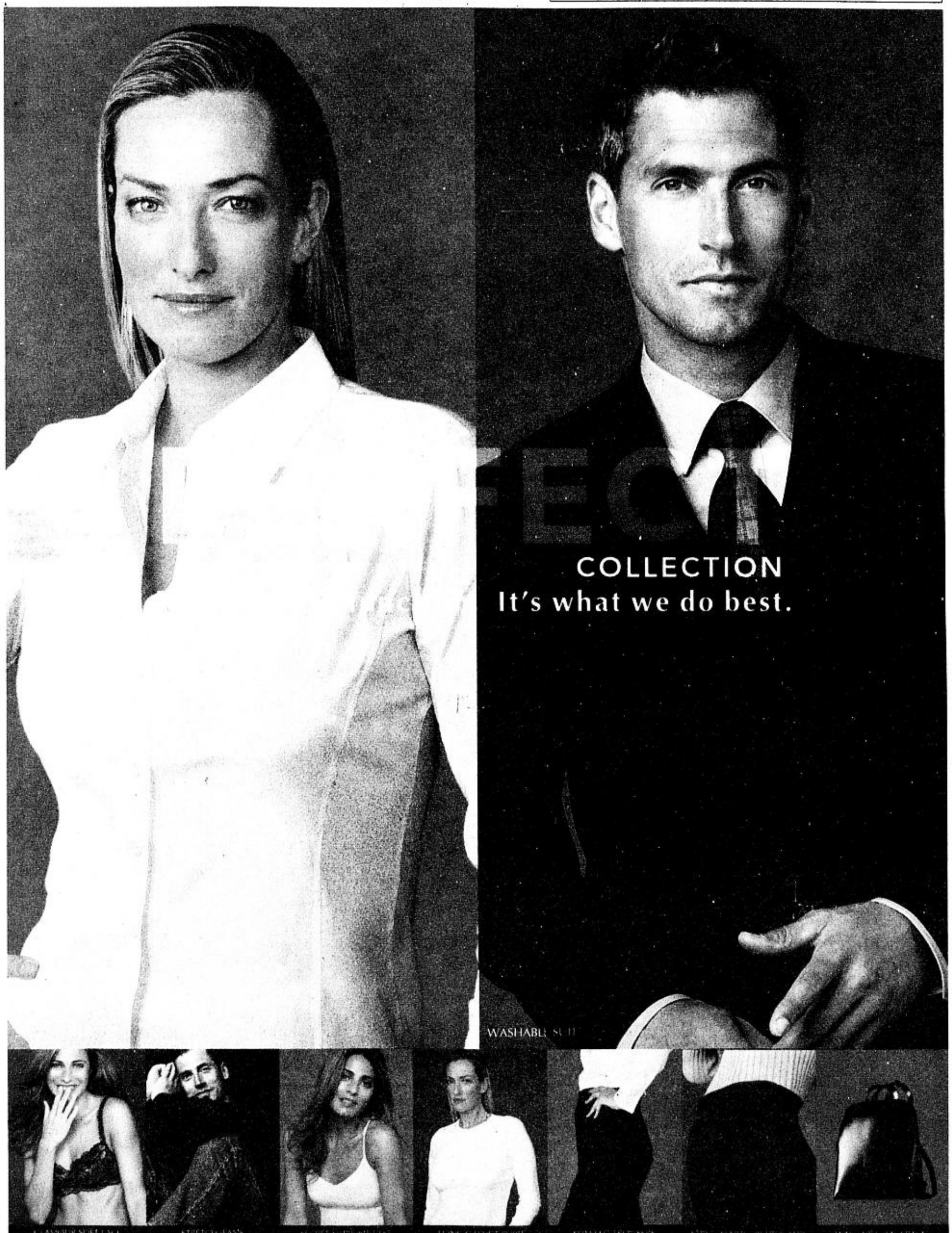
I stood there smiling silently, listening to how much they had absorbed and learned and changed in the span of four months. In the beginning of the semester, they were hesitant to talk about sadness or grief, much less loss. Now, they spoke about it with much knowledge and wisdom brought about by hours and hours of study and great reflection.

The final balloon activity was particularly helpful to many as they were finally able to release whatever sadness or ill feelings they harbored during the semester. Perhaps the greatest gift the course brought to many of them was to give them the ability to process their own losses and move on from there. Though the class was never meant to be a therapy session or a substitute for such, many of the students were grateful to be given the tools to understand their individual losses, accept them, grapple with them and finally move on.

Having walked the same road twice in my life, there is certainly nothing more beautiful than to grieve well, to keep the memory of a loss alive in one's heart and then move on, with a life that has become richer and kinder because of the loss it has suffered.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

FEELY hearts to remember the class by



CITIBANK INTRODUCES THE CLEAR CARD

FOR TODAY'S generation Y (i.e. young) who are driven to excel, things have no way to go but up. Faced with promising careers and countless opportunities knocking on their doors, things are certainly rosy for the young urban professionals or yuppies. What's more, at the end of a busy day, they still have the energy to mix business with peer pleasure at the metro's most happening places.

If you belong to these twenty-something individuals, then it's only apt to aspire for that top notch tool that would help you attain financial security and independence—your very own credit card. And this is where the new Citibank Clear MasterCard enters the picture.

Citibank Marketing Director Cecille Fonacier enthused: "We are very proud to present this most unique credit card for the most unique lifestyle of today's young generation. The Citibank Clear MasterCard is designed to help them live the life they want—affordably—and in their own terms."

A hip card all your own

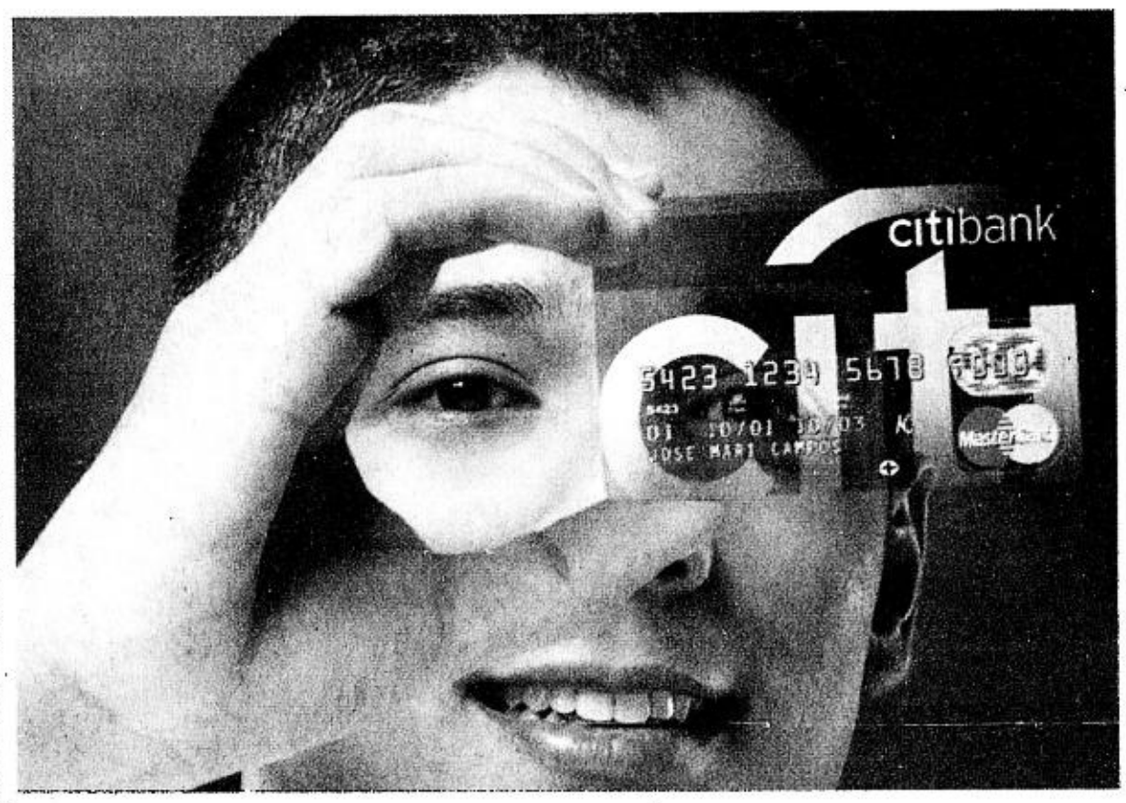
As the name implies, the Citibank Clear MasterCard comes in a hip translucent design that's unlike any other card in the market. With its unique vibrant design, it's as trendy as your look and as dynamic as your attitude!

Cool new card, hot discounts!

For starters, how about getting hot discounts and lots of freebies by just using this hip new card? Your favorite party places and most sought-out shops are giving discounts as much as 30% off when you use your Citibank Clear MasterCard.

Check out some of these superb deals: *5-10% discount at Pho Hoa, Krocodile Grillery, 8th Day Bar Café, San Mig, Strike Zone, Spin Crazy, Ten Years After, Shiraz, and many other hot haunts; 10% price-off at Swatch, Bayo, Nike Park, Replay Jeans, Scuba World, Spencer, Tieline, Oxygen and other shops; and 15-30% discount at Le Soleil de Boracay and Pink Patio.* Expect more and more merchants to join in!

So now you can go out and impress your friends in your usual and not-so-usual hangouts. Wherever you may be, you're sure to make heads turn with your hip new credit card. Have more fun - for less!



Easy monthly membership fee

And since it's all about getting more for less, your Citibank Clear MasterCard will not charge you an annual fee to be paid in one go. Just pay P90 a month to get all the perks and freebies a fully-loaded Citibank credit card offers.

Installment Purchasing Power

Thinking of upgrading to a newer cell phone model, or finally getting a laptop, or perhaps a DVD player for your pad? No need to worry. The Citibank Clear MasterCard is packed with all the regular features of Citibank credit cards including the Paylite Installment Plan. This exclusive feature lets you purchase high-priced items starting from 5,000 - whatever they may be - and break payments down in monthly installments, either 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 months at low interest rates. So you can be sure of light and easy payment, without paying for high interest rates.

So young, yet so privileged

As with other Citibank credit cards, the Citibank Clear MasterCard has a higher credit limit compared to other credit cards. This means greater financial capability, total confidence during emergencies, and other perks that let you handle things your own way.

"Almost everything that regular Citibank cardmembers enjoy is in the new Citibank Clear MasterCard, except that it's designed with features that are more suited to the needs of young professionals. This is to help them appreciate better the perks and privileges of having their own Citibank credit card of their own," explains Sonya Perez-Bernas, Citibank assistant vice president for cards marketing.

Choose your payment options

Another feature shared by Citibank Clear MasterCard with other Citibank credit cards is the Easy Repayment Terms that's so flexible, it allows you to pay for your purchases in full or simply pay the monthly minimum amount every billing cycle.

Citibank Mobile Banking

Because you belong to the highly mobile generation, you have several options to access your Citibank Clear MasterCard. You can log on to the Internet at www.citibank.com.ph. Or use your cellphone with Citibank Mobile Banking if you're on the go. Open to Globe and Smart subscribers, Citibank Mobile Banking lets you check your credit card balance and more just by clicking away on your cell phone.

You can also call the 24-Hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 from any landline, 24 x 7.

Hitch other payments here

Last but not least in the Fastlink Payment Option, a feature that lets you ride your monthly payment for other services to your Citibank Clear MasterCard. You can, for example, enroll your cellphone bills in FastLink and have it paid, automatically, every month. No rush, no payment delays, no hassles.

And should you find yourself crossing the Philippine shores for overseas adventures, your Clear MasterCard is accepted in over 21 million establishments in over 300 countries, with access to cash advances in 600,000 ATMs worldwide.

All these features combined with all the exclusive Citibank credit card benefits make the Citibank Clear MasterCard a must have for the generation carving out their own niche in the world. Clearly, empowering the youth has never been this much fun!

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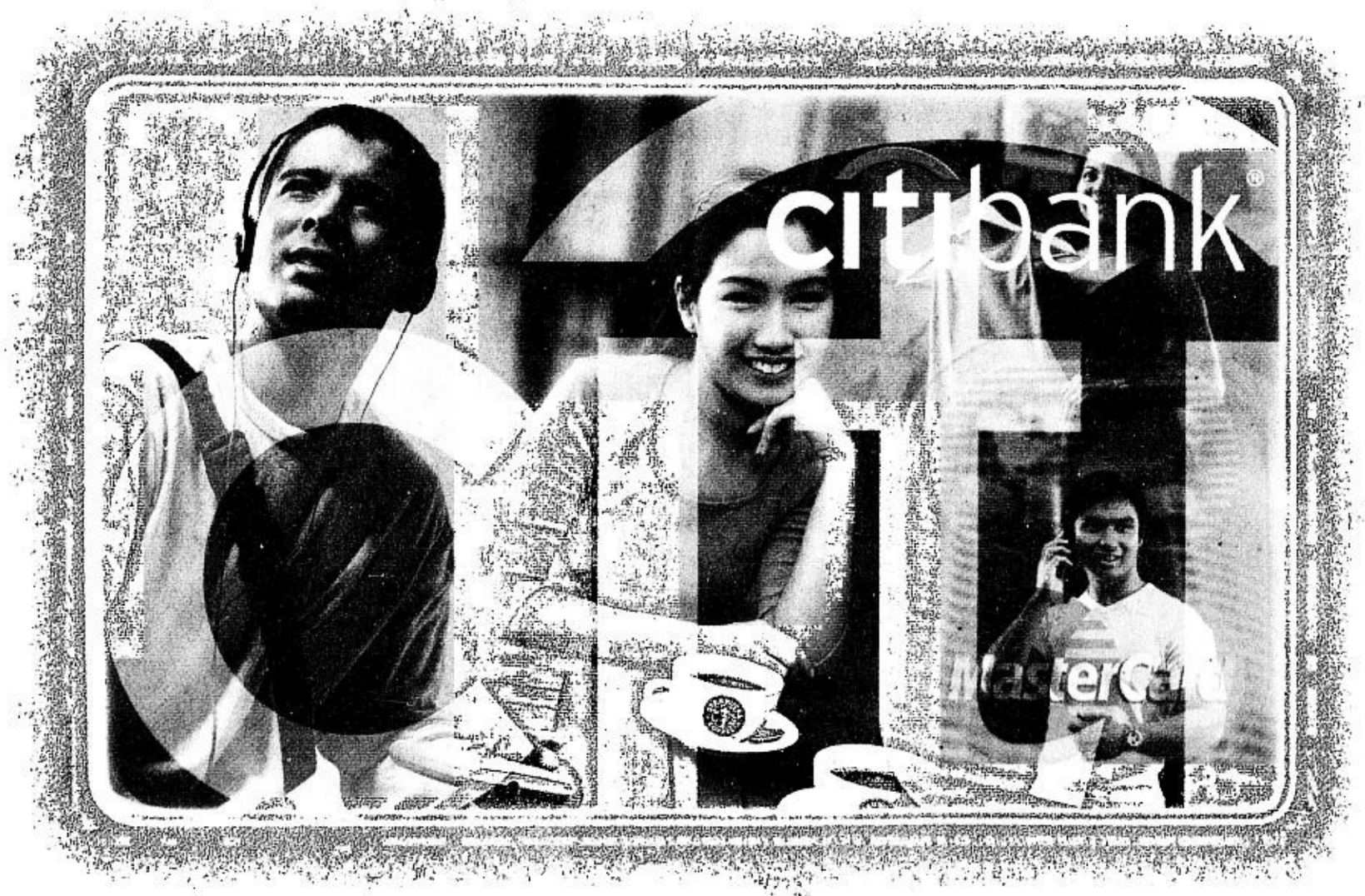

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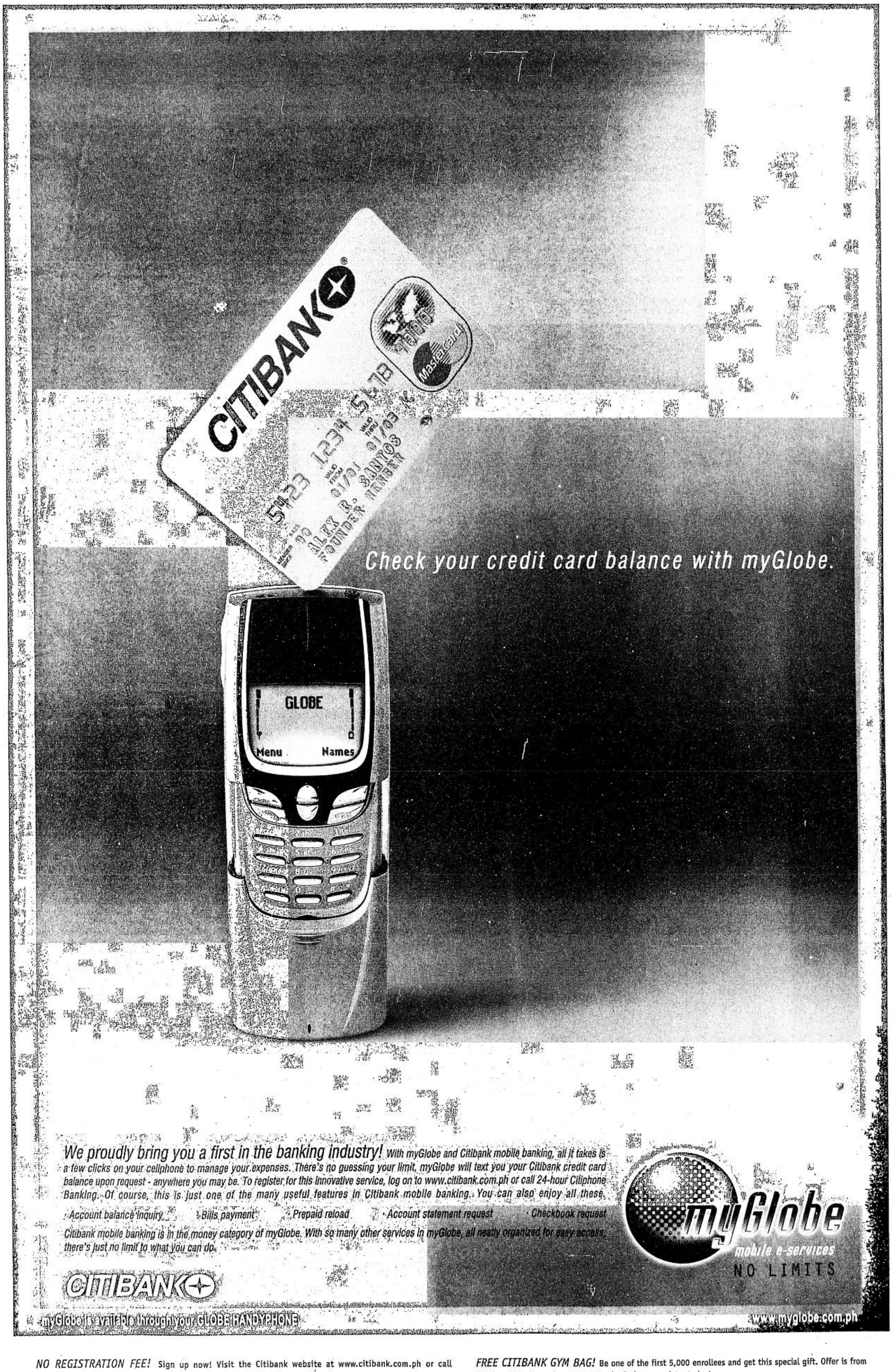

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New mosquito repellent; solution to cable TV woes

BAYER Philippines launched a new mosquito repellent that promises to be an improvement over mainstays in the market. Unlike other repellents that have become household names for many years, the new Bayer's Autan Insect Repellent is supposedly non-toxic, recommended for sensitive skin and can actually be applied on the face.

Most popular insect repellents are not supposed to be applied on the face as they sting the eyes, and may even cause damage to the mucous membrane. And, because these are slightly toxic depending on strength, the products are not recommended for kids and infants.

The other issue against popular repellents is that they contain an ingredient called Deet, which has been known to damage plastic, synthetic clothing, watch crystals, plastic eyeglasses, etc. If it spills inside your bag, it can ruin the bag lining, lipstick holder, spandex or rayon outfit. Bayer claims its repellent is compatible to plastic, varnish, sealant and coating materials. What's more, it contains aloe vera for skin-enhancing.

The most acceptable thing about Autan is the fact that the World Health Organization cited it as "the insect repellent of choice for malaria protections, that is both effective and safe for human use."

Suggestion to Baygon

This timely comment comes from twinsnakes@yahoo.com. "Since aerosol sprays are expensive, I use Baygon's plastic refillable handsprays which are more practical, and unlike metal ones, don't rust around the neck. Moreover, it is easier to screw on to the container.

"I noticed lately, however, that the plastic sprayer's neck breaks off easily and I have to buy a new one all the time. I pay good price for the product and I believe I deserve a better product."

This comment from journalist Thor Orig is long due, and we apologize to him for the delay. Orig wrote: "We have used a range of products to ward off mosquitoes from the house. Solar anti-mosquito guards, coils and mats, a range of electricity-consuming gadgets, etc.

"Our biggest disappointment is the disappearance of Baygon's cartridge refills for our vaporizers. They're either out-of-stock or are not available when we look for it at the stores here. Maybe Baygon should refund our money or replace the "genius" units. These are useless anyway without the refill."

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

Cable TV woes

Lucky us, Destiny cable subscribers. We still enjoy the full range of Star programs, hopefully at least until the middle of next year when Destiny's contract with Star Group Limited is up for renewal.

We've been flooded by letters and calls from disgruntled subscribers of Sky and Home Cable who woke up one day to find out their favorite Star channels have disappeared from their screens. Here are some of the complaints:

From Barroara Adams: "Skycable services are from bad to worse. First they got rid of the Star channels (Star Movie, Star World) and replaced these by too many cartoon channels. As far as HBO and Cinemax are concerned, these are reruns ad nauseam. Hallmark spends one too many 30 minutes showing re-run trailers. How about a premium Sky Cable for those who don't mind paying extra for better programming?"

Mr. H. Yao of e-mail address h16888@yahoo.com wrote: "I am a Home Cable customer and would like to call their attention. Ever since the World Trade Center bombings, a ticker on the bottom of the screen of CNN and Fox news have been appearing. While it shows on other television sets of Sky or Destiny Cable subscribers, the ticker doesn't appear on my Sony 14 and 21-inch sets. I have called your customer service people but no action has been done."

From Noli A. Franco: "Now Skycable is doing it again! Why don't they inform us subscribers the real reason they suddenly pulled out the Star group channels? Bring back the Star group shows or we will urge other subscribers to shift to other cable companies."

Emma Dignos wrote: "We purposely transferred to Home from Sky after the latter cut off the Star group from its lineup. Now Home is doing exactly what Sky previously did to us! I have now transferred to Destiny which offers the Star channels at an unbelievable low monthly of P370, and that covers use of two television sets."

Adeline Chua of aschua@yahoo.com: "I transferred to Home when Sky Cable stopped carrying the Star channels in May 1999. But they merged, and after that, all Star channels were suddenly pulled out on Oct. 19. To make matters worse, Home Cable will be charging subscribers a monthly fee of P550 or an increase of P150 over the current P400. I want to change to another cable company. Can you recommend one to us?"

Mr. Hubert P. of hubert18@I-manila.com.ph sent us this comment last June 14. We apologize to him for the delay in airing his comment. Here are his gripes against Sky Cable: Yearly increase of rate charges. Cancellation of WOWOW Japanese with very good American films from '60s to present and replacement with BS1 purely Japanese variety shows. Cancellation of CNBC Asia. I miss Jay Leno and Conan talk shows. Cancellation of Star channels. I sent Sky a letter that was obviously ignored."

This is a message to Home Cable from Conrad Tolentino of ten2089@yahoo.com. "I specifically chose your company because I enjoyed the majority of the channels you carried. I didn't mind paying in advance and I chose to overlook your consistent failure to send me a copy of my bills. But the continuing deterioration of your service has become unforgivable. I want a refund of the remainder of my advanced payment. For your information, your 24-hour customer care operators have been unavailable for the past days."

From L. Lopez of lornagaylopez@yahoo.com. "When Sky and Home merged, some channels disappeared like Viva Cinema, Nickelodeon, and most recently the National Geographic. Service also deteriorated. When I requested for a service person to check the snowy reception on my TV screen, I was informed that the fee was P200. It used to be free. Conditions worsened on Sept. 19 when the Star channels disappeared. According to management, they did this due to the unreasonable demands of the Star TV group, namely. 1) to carry all their channels, and 2) 100 percent increase in payment that amounted to $8.5 million plus $1.5 million in local withholding tax.

"Cancellation came after Home Cable announced it was increasing its monthly rate from P400 to P550 effective Nov. 15. Why the higher rates for a deteriorated service?"

Home and Sky might have another shocker in store. According to one newspaper report, not only will Sky (the fee will rise from P550 to P700) and Home increase its charges but, by next year, customers will have to pay additional fees for certain channels if they want to continue watching them.

Star group explains

This letter from Star Group company to Lornagay Lopez certainly clears a lot of cobwebs on the issue behind the Star channel pullout from major cable television stations. Gwen J. Carino, public relations and marketing executive of Star Group Limited, wrote.

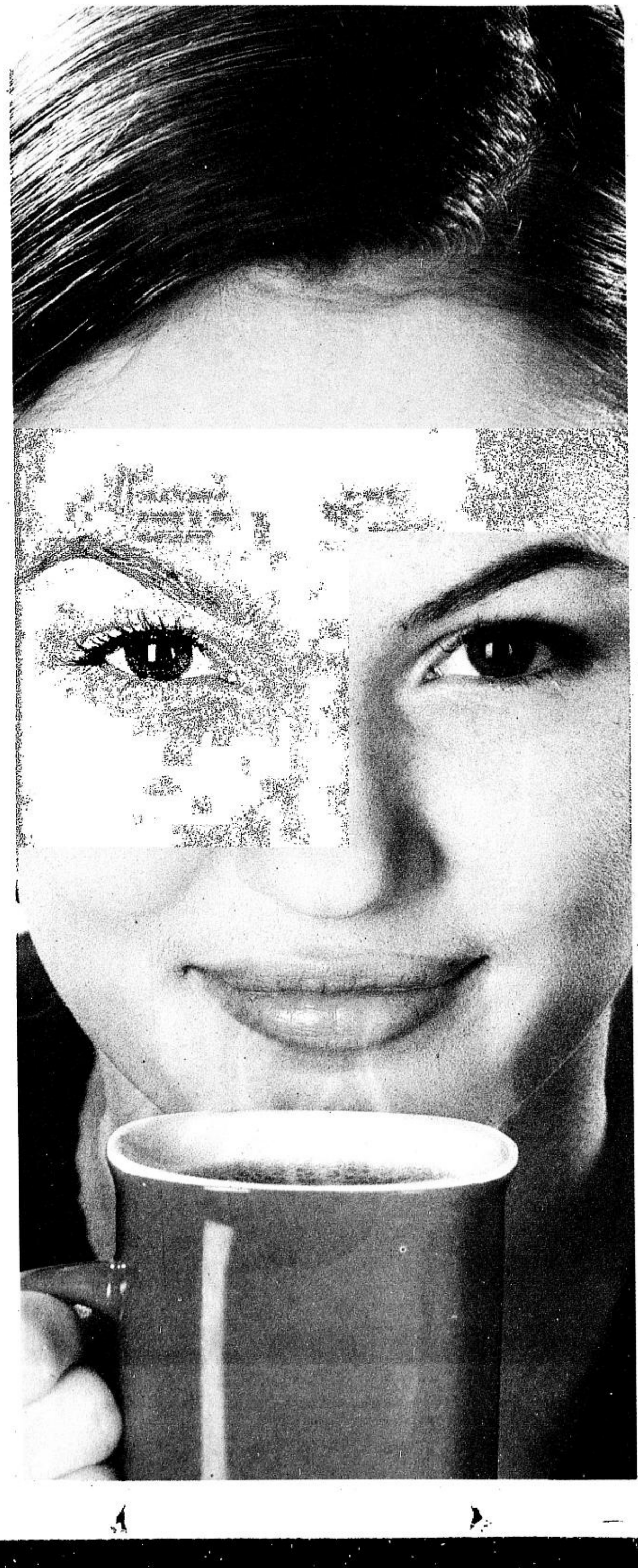
"Stories of Star charging exorbitant rates are untrue. As a matter of fact, we have offered your cable operator advantageous packages that are very reasonable.

"We have been negotiating with Sky and Home for months to agree to a schedule of repayment of overdue fees that date back to last year. This is on top of giving big discounts, price reductions and foreign exchange relief. At this point, our negotiating tables have remained open and coming to an amicable settlement for the benefit of subscribers."

Carino disclosed that Star Group's contract with Destiny Cable will expire middle of next year. For the interest of subscribers, here are other cable companies that air Star programs in Metro Manila. Destiny Cable (tel. 841-9333). Las Piñas/Parañaque (820-2209); Global Cable (892-9001), and Dream Broadcasting (750-8195).

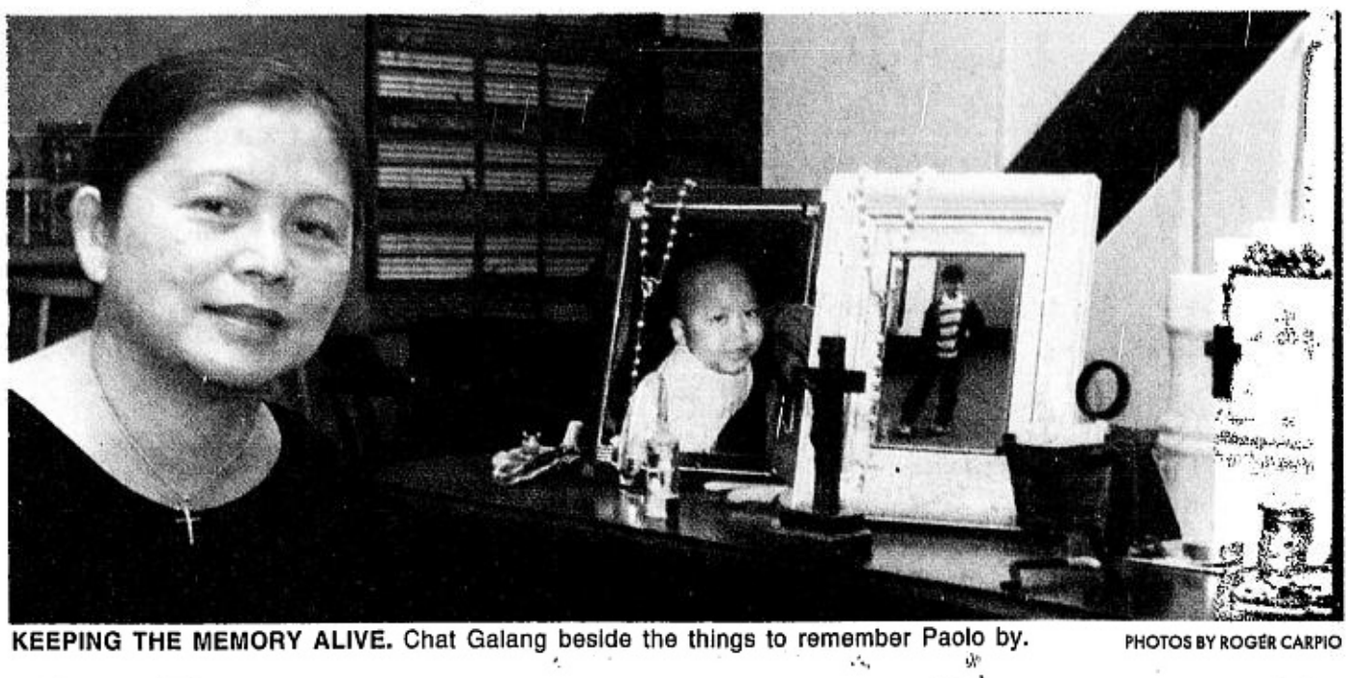
For more information on the facts behind Star's decision to suspend access to the Star channels, e-mail Carino at gwenojc@startv.com.ph

E-mail the author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com or mgiron@csi.com.ph



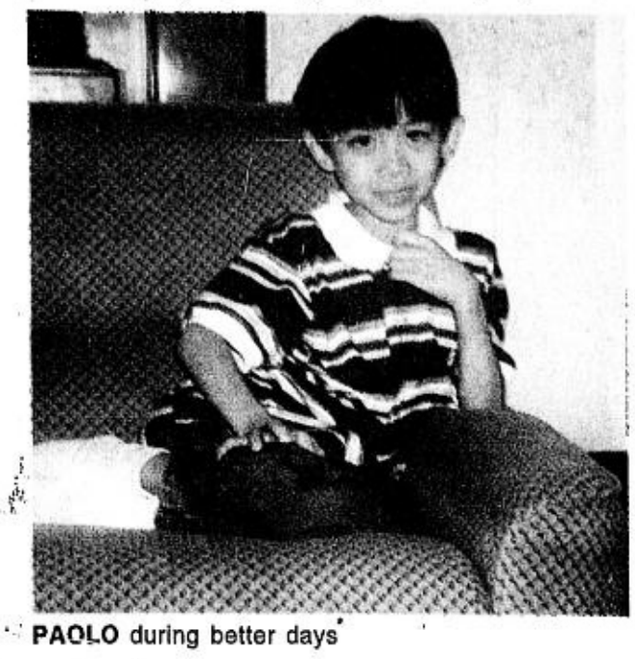
NE school holds two alumni homecomings

AS preparation for its Silver Jubilee Foundation, the Vincentian Catholic Academy in Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija, is holding two alumni homecomings—on Nov. 2 for high school batches '81 to '91, and on Dec. 21 for HS batches '92 to present and elementary batches '98 to present. Call Milagros A. Oamil at (0917)758-8921, Marilyn H. Sadueste at (0917)463-9589, Sylvia M. Gaspar at (0917) 662-5154 or Julito B. Reyes at (0917)245-1132.



KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE. Chat Galang beside the things to remember Paolo by. PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

Chat Galang lost her son to cancer. But she keeps his memory alive by his ashes locked in her locket



PAOLO during better days

Ashes to remember a brave kid by

CLOSE to the end of his young life, 11-year-old Paolo Galang dreamed that he had died and gone to heaven. Tearful he woke up and with much hesitation told his mother about his dream. Where other mothers would have responded with tears, Chat Galang bravely told her son, "Don't be afraid to die. *Sa langit wala ka nang mararamdang sakit. Masaya doon.* Someday I will meet you there, too." A little over a month later, on Jan. 12, 2001, young Paolo passed away after enduring a four-year struggle against a malignant rhabdoid sarcoma, a very rare form of muscular cancer.

The Galangs—Rene and Chat—had found out about Paolo's cancer in 1998 when he was 7 years old. The boy was the youngest child in a family of four children. "Family support was the biggest factor that saw us through all those four years when Paolo valiantly tried to fight the cancer that was slowly eating away at his young body," Chat said.

Courage

Showing courage and wisdom uncharacteristic of his young age, Paolo would join his father in surfing the Net to look for information about his disease. "He would ask us to take pictures of the growing cancer (it was located in the area close to his buttocks) as he wanted to know how far, how bad it was," Chat said. Though the Galangs continued to prop up Paolo to boost his courage, they knew at the end of 2000 that Paolo would be gone soon. "There were times when he would tell us *'Hindi na yata ako gagaling kasi parang nanghihina na ako,'* " she said.

Keeping up the fight, they also made preparations for Paolo's demise. "We told him that we were going to cremate him and he said that it was okay. *Sabi namin* we wanted to keep him close to us always, to have his presence constantly here with us at home," Chat explained.

Thus, two days after Paolo's death, the Galangs held a private viewing of his body for close friends and family members at the Loyola Memorial crematorium in Makati. Laid on a gurney, not in a coffin, Paolo looked like he was just fast asleep. "He died on a Friday afternoon at 3 p.m. just as he wished, because that's when our Lord Jesus died, too," Chat added wistfully.

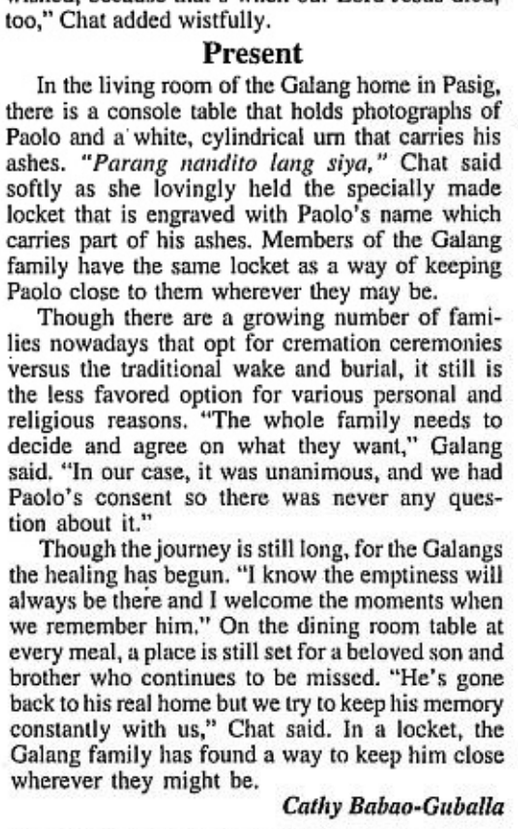
Present

In the living room of the Galang home in Pasig, there is a console table that holds photographs of Paolo and a white, cylindrical urn that carries his ashes. *"Parang nandito lang siya,"* Chat said softly as she lovingly held the specially made locket that is engraved with Paolo's name which carries part of his ashes. Members of the Galang family have the same locket as a way of keeping Paolo close to them wherever they may be.

Though there are a growing number of families nowadays that opt for cremation ceremonies versus the traditional wake and burial, it still is the less favored option for various personal and religious reasons. "The whole family needs to decide and agree on what they want," Galang said. "In our case, it was unanimous, and we had Paolo's consent so there was never any question about it."

Though the journey is still long, for the Galangs the healing has begun. "I know the emptiness will always be there and I welcome the moments when we remember him." On the dining room table at every meal, a place is still set for a beloved son and brother who continues to be missed. "He's gone back to his real home but we try to keep his memory constantly with us," Chat said. In a locket, the Galang family has found a way to keep him close wherever they might be.

Cathy Babao-Guballa



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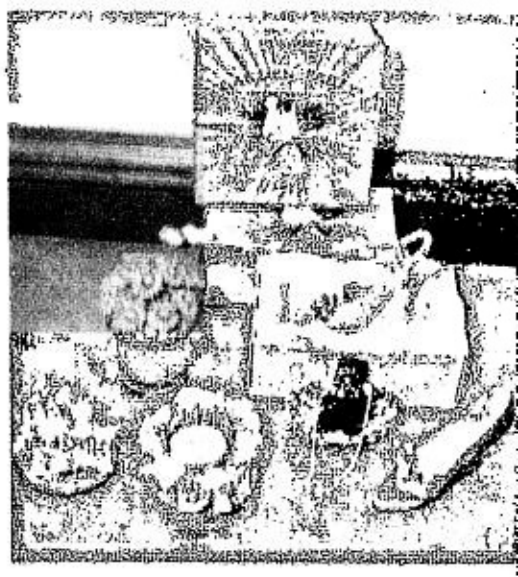


PORCELAIN miniatures from Vicress

November brings queen of all bazaars

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Betoy Johnson

NINE years ago Bea Lucero and Carmen Jimenez-Ong were two young high school seniors looking for ways to do their bit for the less fortunate during the holiday season.

"We were both seated on the porch and cooking up all these ideas on how we could help less fortunate children," Jimenez-Ong said. Suddenly the idea of joining a bazaar came to the two girls. "We both knew how to tie-dye and so we ventured into tie-dyed shirts and got a stall at the Unicard Bazaar," she relates with a smile as she looks back on the early days.

The two young entrepreneurs ended up selling their items to co-vendors. "There was practically no one at the bazaar," Jimenez-Ong laughs. "We made P5,000 that day, and so we decided that the next time around we would put up the bazaar ourselves." In 1993, the first Heaven Sent Bazaar was held at the Manila Polo Club.

"We were able to raise P20,000 that year and with the money we bought toys for prisoners' children as part of a worldwide Project Angel Tree fund-raising campaign. Prison Fellowship executive director Rod Cornejo unintentionally contributed the title "heaven-sent." "He said that the toys for the kids were heaven-sent, thus the origin of the bazaar's name," Jimenez-Ong says with a glint in her eye.

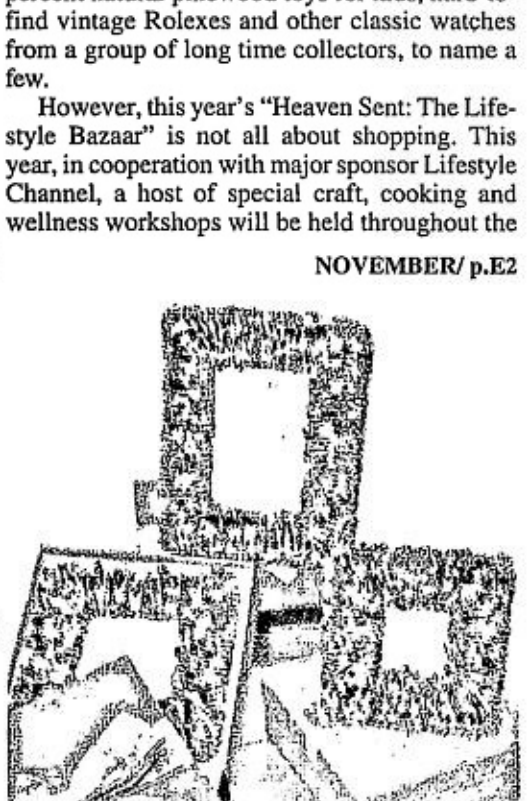
Nine years later and with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) as major beneficiary, Jimenez-Ong and her "power puff"' team of "bazaar builders"—Mary Ann Santiago, Victor Villareal and Olive Isidro—put their creative heads together to come up with what they proclaim as the queen of all bazaars.

Heaven Sent promises to showcase handpicked items or products and creations from vendors who are exclusively joining the bazaar. Take a quick look at this selection—Abueva's pottery, Afghanistan antiques, a candle refilling station for mugs, bottles and any container, Pynky's wooden furniture and antiques, Fresh! Soap at once-in-a-lifetime discounted prices, Yvette's 100-percent natural pinewood toys for kids, hard-to-find vintage Rolexes and other classic watches from a group of long time collectors, to name a few.

However, this year's "Heaven Sent: The Lifestyle Bazaar" is not all about shopping. This year, in cooperation with major sponsor Lifestyle Channel, a host of special craft, cooking and wellness workshops will be held throughout the

NOVEMBER/ p.E2

INTRICATE BEADWORK. Frames by Campos



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CARMEN Jimenez-Ong and the team behind Heaven Sent

November brings . . .

Heaven Sent promises to showcase handpicked items or products and creations from vendors who are exclusive to the bazaar

(From page E1)

two-weekend bazaar.

Free workshops

Lanelle Abueva-Fernando, Nelia Silverio-Dee of Fresh!, Vivian Velez and Anna Marin of Things Remembered, will be sharing their passion for pottery, decoupage, soap making, balloon decorating and candle making. Herbalist Domini Torrevillas will share her expertise on natural home remedies for various ailments. For those interested in the mystique of Pilates, an exclusive demo of the mind-body exercise will be presented by Stott-certified trainers from B+B Studio. Space for the free workshops will be limited so reservations have to be made in advance.

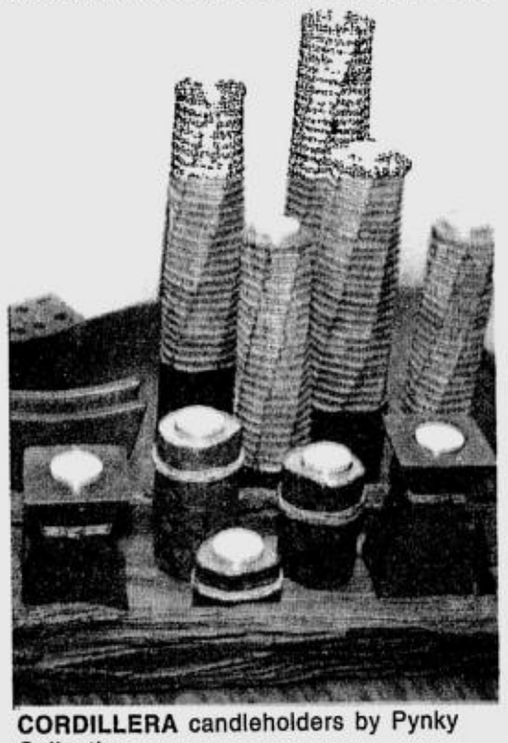
The West lounge of the Manila Polo Club will feature a "bazaar within a bazaar" Nov. 10 and 11 where vendors will come from a show-biz dining group calling itself "Fat Tuesday's" for the simple reason that this group of friends likes to try a different dining place every Tuesday.

The group—composed of sisters Janice and Gelli de Belen, Ariel Rivera, Martin Nievera, Agot Isidro, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Amy Perez, Ricky Davao, Roderick Paulate, director Reuel Bayani and many others—will sell various goods in stalls manned by the celebrities themselves. "There will even be a private auction of some of their gowns and other accessories," Villareal says.

This year's Heaven Sent Bazaar promises larger booth spaces to give more room for product displays and wider hallways for haggling in comfort. Gift-wrapping stations, credit card and ATM facilities will also be part of the much-awaited bazaar. Movie screenings, storytelling, games and other activities will be held in a children's activity area, manned by trusted professionals from the Sacred Heart School in San Lorenzo Village.

A shopper's haven, "Heaven Sent: The Lifestyle Bazaar" promises to be a mecca of rare finds guaranteed to delight even the most discriminating of shoppers.

"Heaven Sent: The Lifestyle Bazaar" happens Nov. 10 & 11 and Nov. 17 & 18 at the Manila Polo Club. Call Laila or Debbie at 812-9405 or 816-3873.



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WHAT IS DIABETES?

Knowing what you're up against is half the battle

"YOU LOST WEIGHT." To many, such a comment would be a huge compliment. But if you can't explain why you lost weight, and if your weight loss is accompanied by constant fatigue, increased thirst or more frequent trips to the bathroom, then it's time to visit your doctor because it could very well be that you have diabetes.

But what exactly is Diabetes? How do you come to have it? Is there a cure? How will it affect your lifestyle? So many questions race into your mind once your doctor diagnoses you with diabetes. Here are some answers.

Diabetes is a serious disease that affects the body's ability to produce or respond properly to insulin, a hormone that allows the blood glucose (blood sugar) to enter the cells of the body and be used for energy. Simply defined, diabetes is a condition that affects the way the body uses energy in food.

Symptoms of diabetes include:

- Frequent urination
- Excessive thirst
- Excessive hunger
- Sudden weight-loss (for no apparent reason)
- Weakness, drowsiness, or exhaustion
- Sudden vision changes or blurred vision
- Nausea and vomiting
- Recurring or hard-to-heal skin, gums or urinary tract infections
- Tingling or numbness in hands and feet
- Itching of the skin

Two main reason of diabetes:

Type 1 Diabetes

You are said to have Type 1 Diabetes if your body does not produce any insulin. It is sometimes known as juvenile onset or insulin-dependent diabetes. It is more common in babies, children, teenagers and young adults, but it may occur at any age and lasts for a lifetime.

Type 2 Diabetes

Also known as non-insulin dependent or adult onset diabetes, this is the most common type of diabetes. In Type 2 diabetes, your pancreas still produces insulin, however, your body does not use it efficiently. This leads to high blood sugar levels. You will be more prone to develop high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke.

98% of diabetes patients have Type 2 Diabetes. And in most cases, the common causes of diabetes are poor eating habits and lack of physical activity.

If you have changed from a traditional Filipino diet consisting of mostly complex carbohydrates and very little fat to a more Western diet like hamburgers and French fries that are loaded with fat, then you are more susceptible to diabetes.

The conveniences of modern life where there is less need for physical exertion have also made most Type 2 Diabetes patients more and more inactive. Instead of climbing stairs, they use the escalators or elevators. Instead of walking to the supermarket or to church, they take their cars.

Many people with Type 2 diabetes may remain undiagnosed for several years. You may be at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes if you:

- are over 40 years old
- are more than 20% over the weight that's healthy for you
- have a close family member with diabetes
- have high blood pressure, or high cholesterol or triglyceride levels
- have had gestational diabetes, or delivered a baby weighing over 9 pounds
- have had previous blood sugar problems

If you have two or more of these risk factors, the chances of getting diabetes are higher.

How do you control diabetes?

Diabetes control means keeping your blood sugar levels within the normal range. Regardless of the type of diabetes, there are three main elements of control:

- healthy eating
- physical activity
- medication (insulin or tablets)

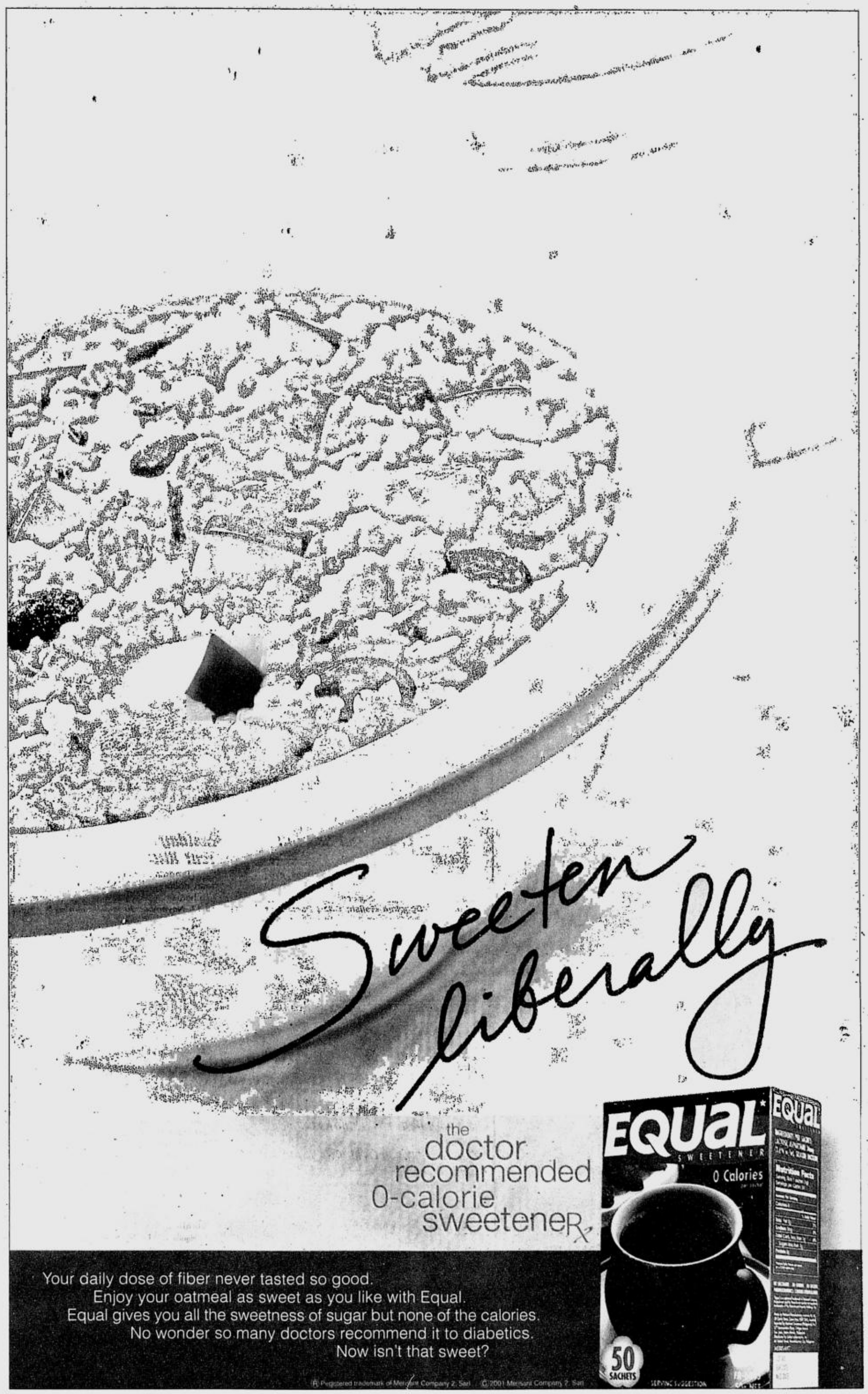
Diabetes control is a balancing act of these and other factors. For this reason, it is advisable for you to visit your doctor and have your blood sugar levels checked regularly.

Equal's role in diabetes management

Because one of the most important factors in diabetes management is controlling your blood sugar levels, the most drastic change in your lifestyle when you have diabetes is the reduction of sugar in your diet. That means cutting down on cakes, juices and other sweet foods. This is where Equal sweetener comes in.

Equal is the best substitute for sugar in the diabetic diet. It provides the sweetness normally found in sugar but without the unwanted calories. In fact, one sachet of Equal sweetener contains only 4 calories while its equivalent of two teaspoons of sugar which has 32 calories. That means an Equal user takes in 28 calories less! Also, Equal doesn't increase your blood sugar levels because it is made from protein components. And Equal is safe to use because it is naturally digested and metabolized by your body. So you can continue to enjoy your favorite sweet foods by simply removing the sugar and replacing it with Equal.

Diabetes is a lifelong challenge. But with the proper knowledge and the right attitude, it is a challenge that you can overcome.



ST. Mary's College of Quezon City's High School Batch '79 will hold its reunion on Nov. 17, 5 p.m., at Albergus Restaurant, Capitol Heights, QC. Call 427-2771.

Makati Rotary holds bazaar today

THE ROTARY Club (RC) of Makati will hold its 14th Christmas bazaar today at the Peninsula Manila.

The bazaar will offer off-the-rack clothes for men, women and children, leather goods, toys, stationery, native crafts, linen, fully decorated, one-of-kind Christmas trees and Christmas décor not found in other outlets. A raffle will be held every hour. The Last Angel Tree, RC Makati Bazaar's hallmark, offers a chance to get a present for a needy child.

This year's bazaar is organized by the Rotary Anns led by Milette Carlos, wife of RC Makati president Jonny Carlos. Working with her are Yvonne Kuan, Et Librea, Jean Chavez, Joey Roque, Chit Marty, Marilou Alejandro, Terry Tambunting, Glo Garcia, Vicky Cantada, Corlu Caparas, Lit Dominguez, Caling Young, Stef Naval, Tesha Garcia, Marilyn Velayo, Myrna Adriano, Papat Escaler, Angela Quila, Maureen Soong, Mariza V. del Rosario, Lorraine Feliciano and Joanna Santos-Ocampo.

STANDING, from left, Tesha Garcia, Joey Roque, Marilou Alejandro, Steph Naval; second row, chair Milette Carlos, Glo Garcia, Angela Quila, Caling Young; first row, Terry Tambunting and Lorraine Feliciano

Get the best holiday bargains

KARL Edward International brings back its Triple Treat holiday bazaars with the best bargains for the holiday season. It starts today with the "Gifts and Keeps Bazaar Part 2" at the Hotel Inter-Con.

Shoppers will definitely have a ball with the "Shoppers Discount" bazaar on Nov. 24 and 25 at Dusit Hotel.

The Triple Treat holiday bazaars caps the shopping extravaganza with the "Import Export" bazaar on Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko. The next weekend bazaar is on Nov. 17 and 18, followed by nonstop shopping madness on Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23.

All bazaars are from 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Make your own candles

GOOD news for all those who are creative and would like to augment their income with new innovative business ideas. Make your own candles. You can create your own designs, make them brightly colored and dab them with your favorite scent.

Come and join the training on decorative/scented candle-making at the DOST Compound. It will be held on Oct. 29-30, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Each participant will have a hands-on experience d... this two-day

BAZAAR 2001

Oct. 28	Karl Edward's Bazaar	Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati
Oct. 28	Rotary Club of Makati	Peninsula Hotel, Makati
Nov. 3	Christmas Gallery M. Mabanta	Makati Sports Club, Makati
Nov. 10	Christmas Gallery M. Mabanta	Makati Sports Club, Makati
	Heaven Sent Bazaar	Manila Polo Club
Nov. 11	Zonta Club of Makati	Santuario de San Antonio, Makati
	Heaven Sent Bazaar	Manila Polo Club
Nov. 17	X'mas Factory M. Mabanta	Makati Sports Club, Makati
Nov. 17-18	Bazaar Fest 2001	Green Meadows, QC
Nov. 17-18	Karl Edward's Bazaar	NBC Tent, The Fort
Nov. 23	Bazaar Fest 2001	Forbes Park, Makati
Nov. 24	X'mas Factory M. Mabanta	Makati Sports Club, Makati
Nov. 24-25	Karl Edward's Bazaar	Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati
Nov. 25	Give Love on Christmas Day	Forbes Park, Makati
Nov. 30	Karl Edward's Bazaar	Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati
Nov. 30	Bazaar Fest 2001	Valle Verde 6
Dec. 1	F.O.B. 2 Menchie Mabanta	Makati Sports Club, Makati
Dec. 1-2	Bazaar Fest 2001	Valle Verde Country Club
Dec. 1-2	Karl Edward's Bazaar	Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati
Dec. 1-2	Christmas 2001 Shop Expo	World Trade Center
Dec. 5	Give Love on Christmas Day	Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati
Dec. 8-9	Karl Edward's Bazaar	NBC Tent, The Fort
Dec. 15-16	Bazaar Fest 2001	Green Meadows,QC
Dec. 15-16	Karl Edward's Bazaar	NBC Tent, The Fort
Dec. 15-16	Noel Christmas Bazaar	Manila Polo Club, Forbes, Makati
Dec. 22-23	Karl Edward's Bazaar	NBC Tent, The Fort

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Bloomfields
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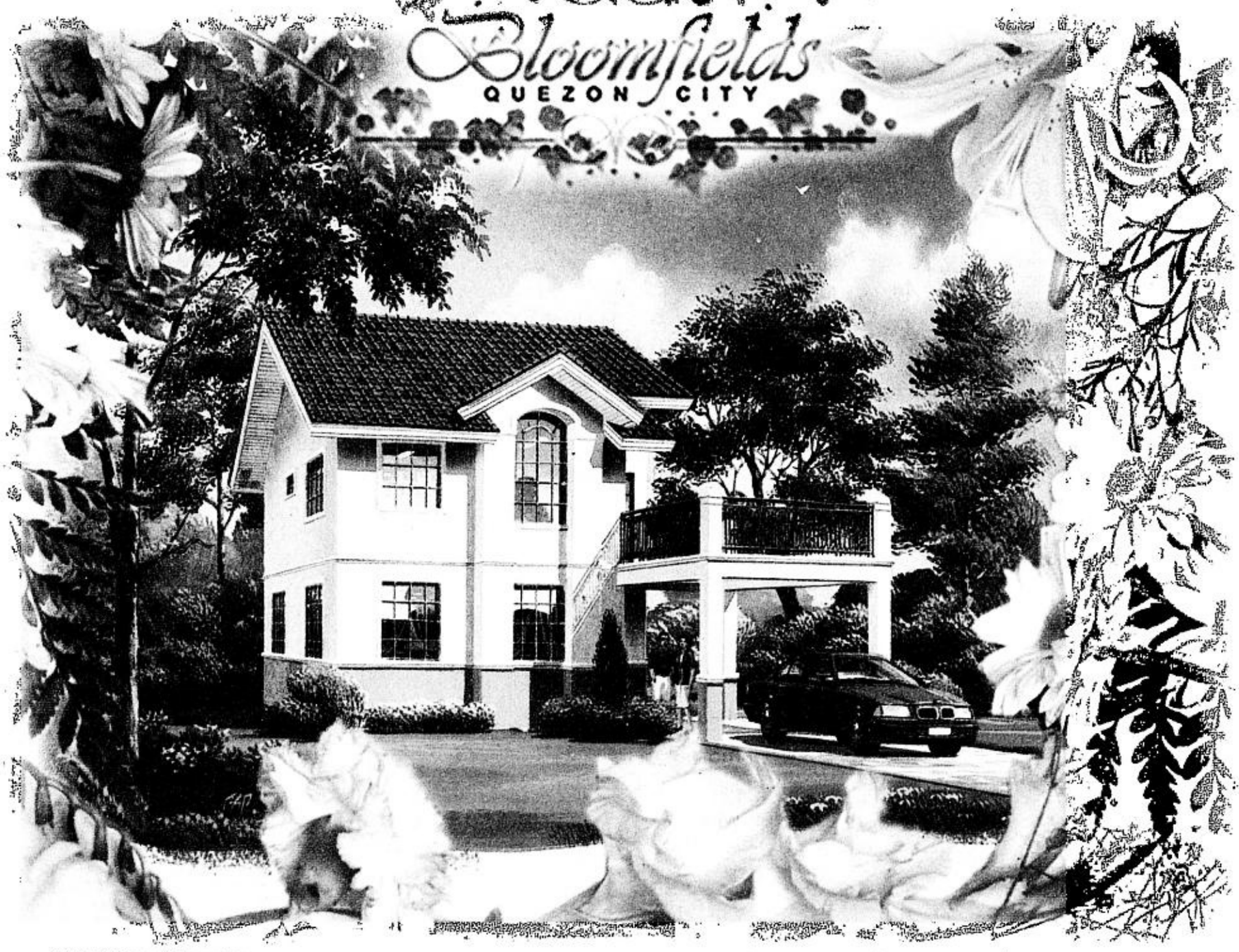

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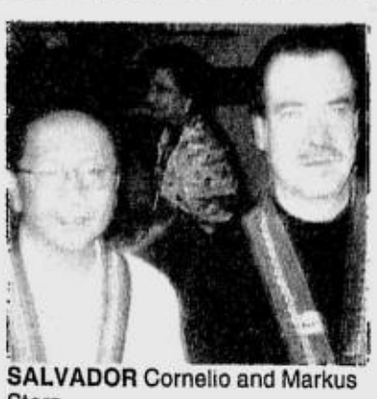
JULIAN Divinagracia

MICHEL and Amparito Lhuillier

PATRICK and Marichel Gregorio



SALVADOR Cornelio and Markus Stern

SATISH Naydu and Mila Demecillo

An evening of splendor in China

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

A NIGHT in China was the theme of a dinner held by the Cebu Baillage of La Chaine des Rotisseurs at the Tin Gow restaurant of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. It evoked an evening of splendor in Peking's Forbidden City, complete with an Emperor, impersonated by **Jun Diamante**. There he sat, on a raised dais beneath a canopy, in shimmering imperial yellow brocade, attended by solicitous courtiers who brought forth every dish on golden platters, accompanied by dainty ivory chopsticks trimmed with silver.

Wonderful, wonderful, praised Madame la Baili **Amparito Lhuillier**, with a gallant **Michel Lhuillier** beside her, as the dinner unfolded. Given a royal welcome was the good-looking new Vice Governor of Cebu **John-John Osmeña**, who came with the willowy **Amanda Lu Ym**. Her mom, **Annabelle Corn Lu Ym**, made a fashion statement that evening in a mauve silk Chinese outfit.

Cebu La Chaine officers were in complete attendance—**Markus Stern**, **Teresing Mendezona**, treasurer **Julian Divinagracia**, chef **Dietmar Dietrict** and **Al Evangelio**. Waterfront VIPs also formed a strong presence—Chief Operations Officer **Patrick Gregorio** with his pretty wife **Marichel**, marketing director **Shella Laxa**, F&B director **Chris Cuevillas** and **Chito Casipit**.

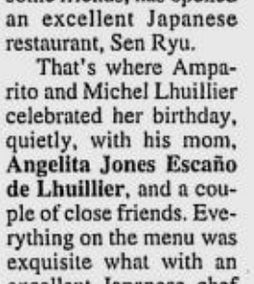
Cebu's leading hotels were well represented: Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort by **Ben** and **Lili Bousnina**, who announced that the Cebu La Chaine Christmas event will be held there: Salvador Cornelio of the Cebu Plaza Hotel, the venue for the annual induction in February; **Efren Belarmino** from Plantation Bay; and chef **Armando Figueroa** from Marriott Hotel.

Dr. **Nestor** and **Joji Alonso** came with their lovely cousin **Norma Selma Gullas** (her husband **Eddie Gullas** is the first mayor of the newly created City of Talisay right next to Cebu City, going south) and she sat at the same table as **Choy** and **Rosebud Sala**. **Angie Lardizabal Mathieu** was complimented for her red brocade outfit, and she said she found it in the pajama section of a department store.

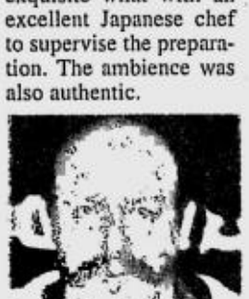
More guests included **Marlinda Tan**, who came with **Richard Uysiuseng** here on a breather from Boston; **Victorino** and **Pilar Cusi** (she is the president of the Cebu Piano Teachers Guild); Europa's **George Rondina**; **Felimon Suarez**; **Satish Naydu** and **Mila Demecillo**, as lovey-dovey as always; and **Winglip Chang**, who, with his wife **Pinky** and some friends, has opened an excellent Japanese restaurant, Sen Ryu.

That's where Amparito and Michel Lhuillier celebrated her birthday, quietly, with his mom, **Angelita Jones Escaño de Lhuillier**, and a couple of close friends. Everything on the menu was exquisite what with an excellent Japanese chef to supervise the preparation. The ambience was also authentic.

DIETMAR Dietrich



ANGIE Mathieu



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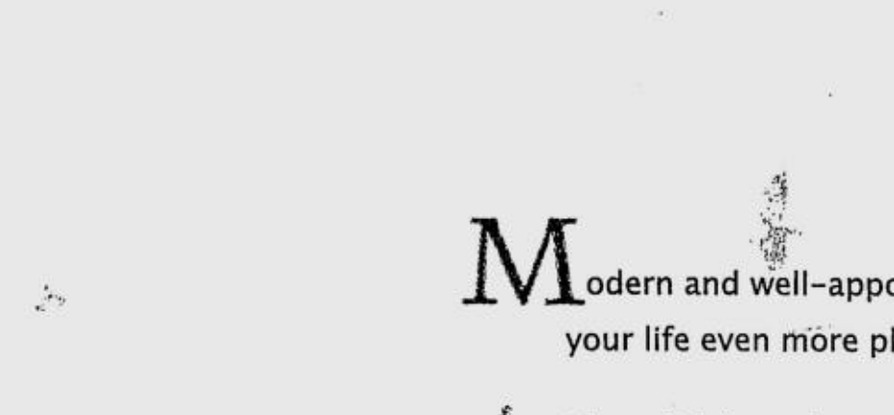

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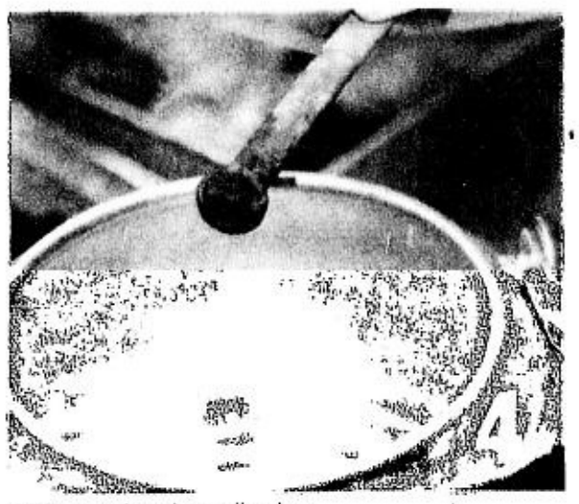
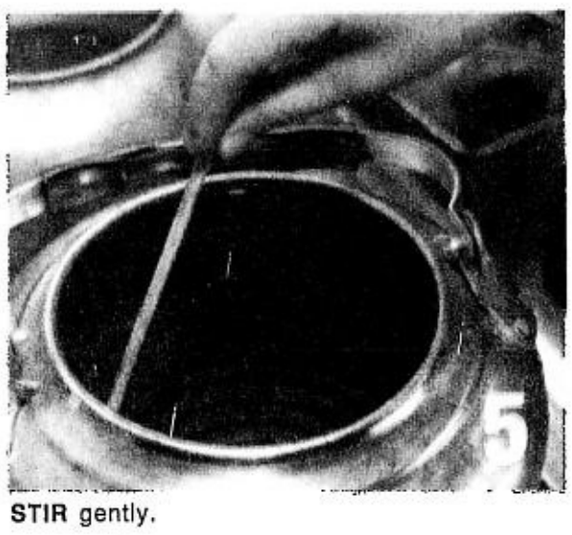
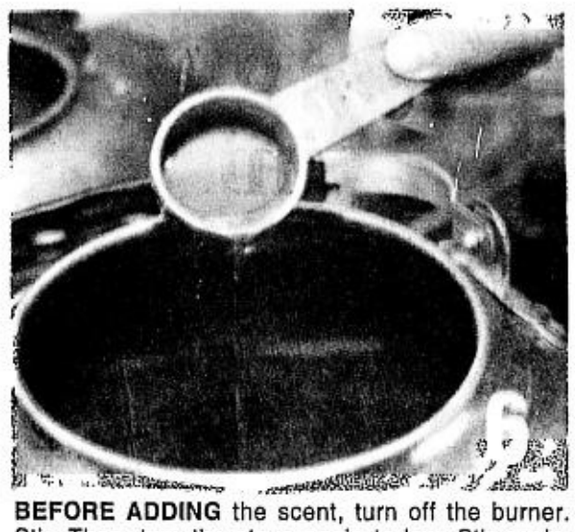
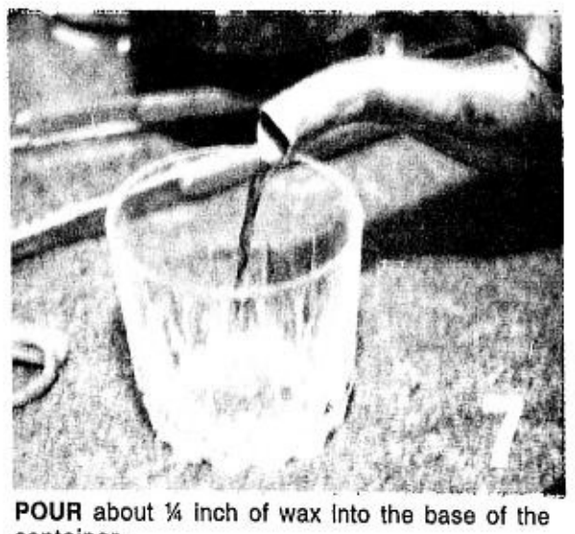
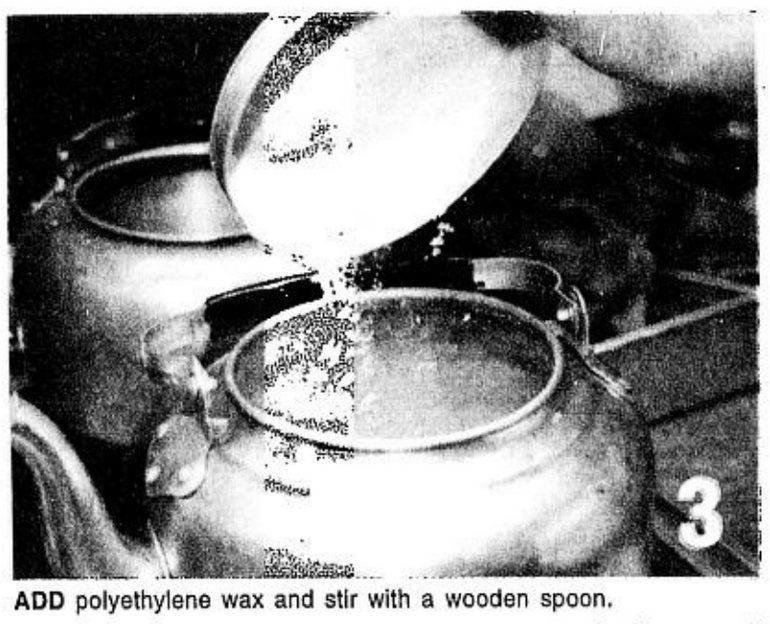

ADD powdered candle dye.

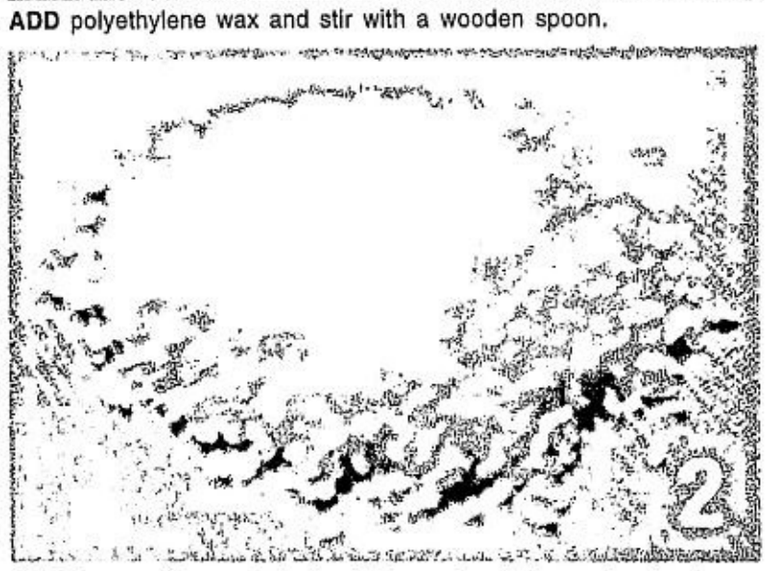

STIR gently.


BEFORE ADDING the scent, turn off the burner. Stir. Then, turn the stove again to low. Stir again.


POUR about ¼ inch of wax into the base of the container.

Don't buy, make your own scented candles


ADD polyethylene wax and stir with a wooden spoon.


PUT the paraffin wax into the kettle and melt it over low heat.

PREPARE materials, such as those for measuring and cutting the wick. Set aside.

The art of making candles can offer a lot of options for your imagination

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

PINKY Calica says the first thing one needs to know about candle-making is that it is fun. From plain and simple to the most elaborate and ornate, scented or unscented, all types of candles are delightful to make.

"Making your own candles at home can be an inexpensive, enjoyable hobby," stresses Pinky, the woman behind the popular brand of scented candles, Candlicious. "The art of candle-making offers many options and you're only limited by your imagination."

All the materials needed to get started are readily available around you, including candle containers. Look for anything in your house that you have not used and will not use anymore, like old whiskey or shot glasses, strawberry jam jars, baby food containers or small clay pots.

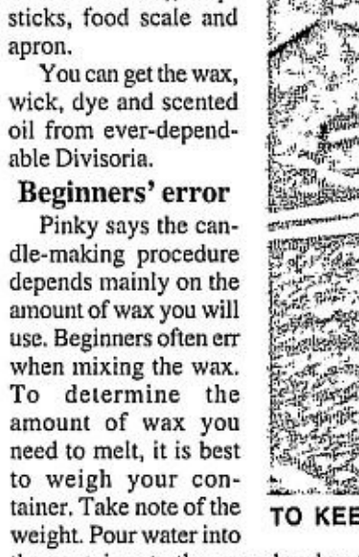
STEP BY STEP

You will need a double boiler or kettle for melting and mixing wax, paraffin wax (it comes in slabs or pellets), polyethylene wax (grains or powder), candle powder dye, wick, sustainer (or wick tab), scented oil, container (anything with a wide mouth that you can fill with wax), chopsticks, food scale and apron.

You can get the wax, wick, dye and scented oil from ever-dependable Divisoria.

Beginners' error

Pinky says the candle-making procedure depends mainly on the amount of wax you will use. Beginners often err when mixing the wax. To determine the amount of wax you need to melt, it is best to weigh your container. Take note of the weight. Pour water into the container to the same level as the amount of wax you would like to put. Get the total weight of water and container. After subtracting the weight of the empty container, you will have the approximate weight of wax you will need. However, when you melt the wax, remember to add about 20 percent or 30 percent to the net amount.



"An additional 20 percent or 30 percent is added because when wax melts, it also evaporates. It is better to have more than less. Also, you will need to use up some wax when mixing the color you want," explains Pinky (cell phone no. 0918-903-8266), who is also a digital effects editor for a postproduction company.

Suppose after melting the wax you get about 1 kg (1,000 g). To make the wax slightly more opaque and a little more long-lasting, mix in two percent of polyethylene wax. Measure 980 g of paraffin and 20 g polyethylene. Melt the mixture, preferably in a double boiler to avoid overheating (wax can catch fire when overheated). If you have no double boiler, you can melt the wax in a kettle in low heat. Heat the wax to 82°C or until wax is almost as clear as water. Turn off the stove first before removing the mixture.

Coloring

As for your candle's color, use a color wheel for guide. The basic colors of candle dye are red, blue, green and yellow. Do your mixing in a double boiler or kettle. If you notice that the wax is slowly clouding, turn the heat to low once in a while, turning off the stove again when the mixture clears up. The dye is very strong, so make sure you use very little amounts when mixing, especially if you want pastel colors. After mixing, pour a small amount in a small clear glass to check if it is the right color. Let the substance cool. When the small clear glass is no longer warm, you will see the color you have achieved. You can change it if you want. Put the mixture over low heat again until it becomes clear.

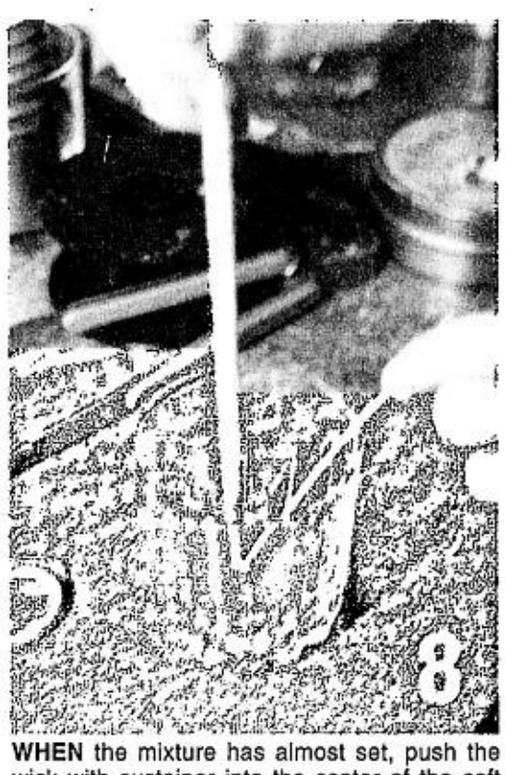
In adding the scent, every 1 kg of wax will need 5 ml of oil if you are using essential oils (jasmine, lavender, *ylang-ylang*). If you are using synthetic oils (apple, lemon, pine, etc.), you will need 20 ml of oil for every kilo of wax. Mix oil and wax for one minute in low heat.

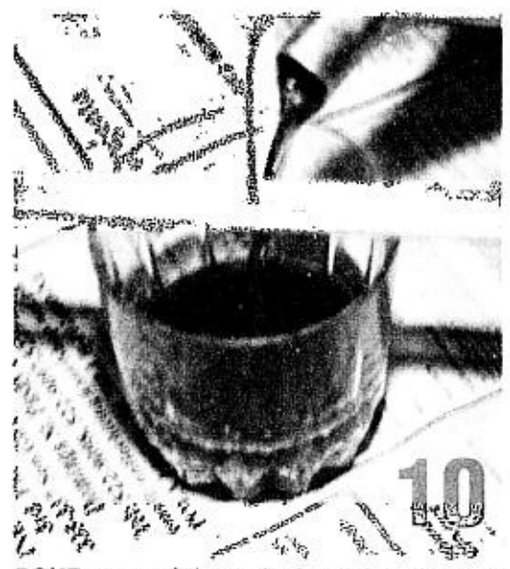
In priming the wick, cut the wick two inches longer than the container to be used. Dip it in the wax (so the wick will also be scented). Lay it on the counter in a straight line. When it hardens, attach the sustainer to the end of the wick.

Safety tips: Never leave the wax on an open stove unattended. It is better to heat wax in a double boiler. If you have none, melt wax in a kettle or saucepan in low heat. Make sure the kitchen is well ventilated. Wear apron and protective gloves.

Tips for keeping the working area neat: Never pour melted wax into the kitchen sink to avoid clogging. Although wax can come off easily on kitchen counters, cover counters with newspapers. Spilled wax on hard surface can be scraped off after it has cooled.

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga @inquirer.com.ph


WHEN the mixture has almost set, push the wick with sustainer into the center of the soft wax. Use a stick to push the sustainer into the wax. Wait until the wax has hardened.


POUR more of the melted wax into the container up to the desired level. Make sure you pour the wax slowly to prevent bubbles from forming. It is best not to move the container to avoid bubbles and "waves" on the candle.

TO KEEP the wick in place, put it between chopsticks.

WHEN the wax cools, it contracts and forms a well in the middle of the container. When the candle is half set, pierce holes near the wick. This will make sure that when you pour the wax again, you will not leave any "hollow" parts in the candle.

POUR more wax. The candle will be ready for use when the top and the sides are no longer warm.

PINKY Calica with her candle collections in different shapes, sizes, colors and scents

Gordon says he will observe due process in Intramuros Administration chief's case

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

I WRITE in reference to the Week Waker-uppers column titled "Are Gordon and indicted Intramuros Administration chief playing beautiful music together?" (PDI Lifestyle, 10/21/01).

While it is true that there has been a decision by the Sandiganbayan suspending **Dominador Ferrer** as administrator of the Intramuros Administration, Ferrer has filed an appeal to this decision. The Sandiganbayan has not issued an order to effect its decision and until it does so, I am constrained to respect the rule of law and keep Ferrer at his post. When I was unceremoniously and illegally removed from my post as chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority in 1998 by then President **Joseph Ejercito Estrada**, I contended that because due process was not observed and the legal appointment under which I was serving was ignored, Administrative Order No. 1, which was to remove me as SBMA chair, was invalid. I will not now ignore the rule of law to replace Ferrer whose appeal remains pending with our government's legal system.

With regard to the issuance of a memo for Intramuros Administration officials, or other Department of Tourism officials for that matter, to attend my confirmation hearing with the Commission on Appointments at the Senate on Oct. 17, I categorically deny that I caused or influenced its issuance. There has been no directive, written or verbal, emanating from my office requiring anybody's attendance at the CA hearing. In fact, when I arrived at the Senate building I was surprised to see quite a large contingent from the DOT family there, and said, "Why are you all here? You should be working at your offices."

We hope this sheds light on the issues raised in your article. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

(Sgd.) RICHARD J. GORDON
Secretary, Department of Tourism

The article said the memo was issued by Intramuros Administration chief Dominador Ferrer to his subordinates.—Ed.

Ferrer replies

PRUDENCE and respect for the law and in view of the pendency of my case before the Sandiganbayan or sub judice consideration restrained me from reacting at first. However, the article on Oct. 21 compelled me to respond and clarify the matter.

1. With all due respect, the call for my ouster is unfair. The Ombudsman has cleared me of any administrative liability as far as the complaint of **Bambi Harper** is concerned. In relation to the case before the Sandiganbayan, I have filed the necessary motion citing, among other vital considerations, my exoneration in other legal forums from the same charges.

A similar case filed against me at the PCAGC has been dismissed. A similar case involving the same charges has been dismissed by the Ombudsman.

As such, I believe that until the Sandiganbayan makes a resolution of the only remaining case against me, any suspension will be offensive to the rule of law and will violate my constitutional right to due process.

2. The authority over the contract to lease a certain portion of Intramuros is above board as this was approved by the Intramuros Administration Board, which was concurred in by then Tourism Secretary **Gemma Cruz-Araneta** as the chair of the board, which the IA was mandated to implement.

The Regional Trial Court recognized and affirmed the contract's validity and approved the agreement, stating that it was not contrary to law, morals, good custom and public policy.

Furthermore, the project was intended by the board to augment the scarce funds to maintain and enhance the Walled City.

Moreover, the agreement that ensued after the final determination of the Regional Trial Court was only signed after review and final recommendation of the Office of the Solicitor General and other government legal authorities. I wish to point out that this was approved by the board and signed by the then Secretary of Tourism and myself.

3. I am a career executive official with Ceso 1 rank, who has continuously served as administrator of the Intramuros Administration since my appointment by President **Fidel Ramos** and President Joseph Estrada.

I have the proper and sufficient academic background and experience and I rose from the ranks to merit this post.

Through the years I have diligently and persistently sought higher academic and professional training to improve my management competence. I would not wish to dignify some personal remarks about my higher academic pursuits and sense of loyalty and commitment to serve the government with a response.

4. The recent articles seeking my ouster arose from the controversy over the lease of certain portions of Intramuros. I have been the victim of baseless and unjust allegations in and out of court which have not only publicly denigrated my reputation and integrity as a public official, but caused so much pain and anguish to my family, relatives and friends.

5. The pressure put to bear on Secretary Gordon to suspend and remove me is unfair at this time when all executive heads are due for confirmation. Besides, the Secretary has high regard and respect for the Ceso and CSC rules.

It seems that my detractors have mastered forum shopping. They now intensify their vilification campaign by using the fourth estate as the forum to unduly persecute me and cause my removal from office.

I appeal to the editors of the INQUIRER to review these commentaries.

I have the highest respect for other people's sense of civic duty. They have every right to espouse their belief and convictions even through written column or article. In fact, some have pursued this advocacy to the utmost in filing cases against me in the Ombudsman.

However, when these articles and columns being written are half-truths, where does a victim of unfair commentaries like myself seek redress? I only buy ink by the bottle and they buy it by the barrel.

(Sgd.) DOMINADOR FERRER JR.
Administrator
Intramuros Administration

Ugly experience

AT LE Soufflé in Ortigas, a diner named **Richard Chiu (Tsiu?)** talked busily on his radio. An elderly British couple seated near him requested him to tone down the radio. Before the couple knew it, the bodyguards and lawyer of diner were upon them. The lawyer even hit the Briton. The two were longtime residents of Manila, but because of the incident, they flew back to London at once.

Insensitive jeepneys

THERE is always a major traffic buildup on Estrada Street beside St. Scholastica's College. It is caused by the jeepneys that are parked at the corner of Estrada and Leon Guinto. Their drivers don't care a hoot that by appropriating the street as their terminal, they are blocking traffic and causing a lot of motorists and commuters headache. Perhaps City Hall and the Metro Manila Development Authority should instill a little ethic and sensitivity on these drivers by removing them from the streets.

A big Net-down

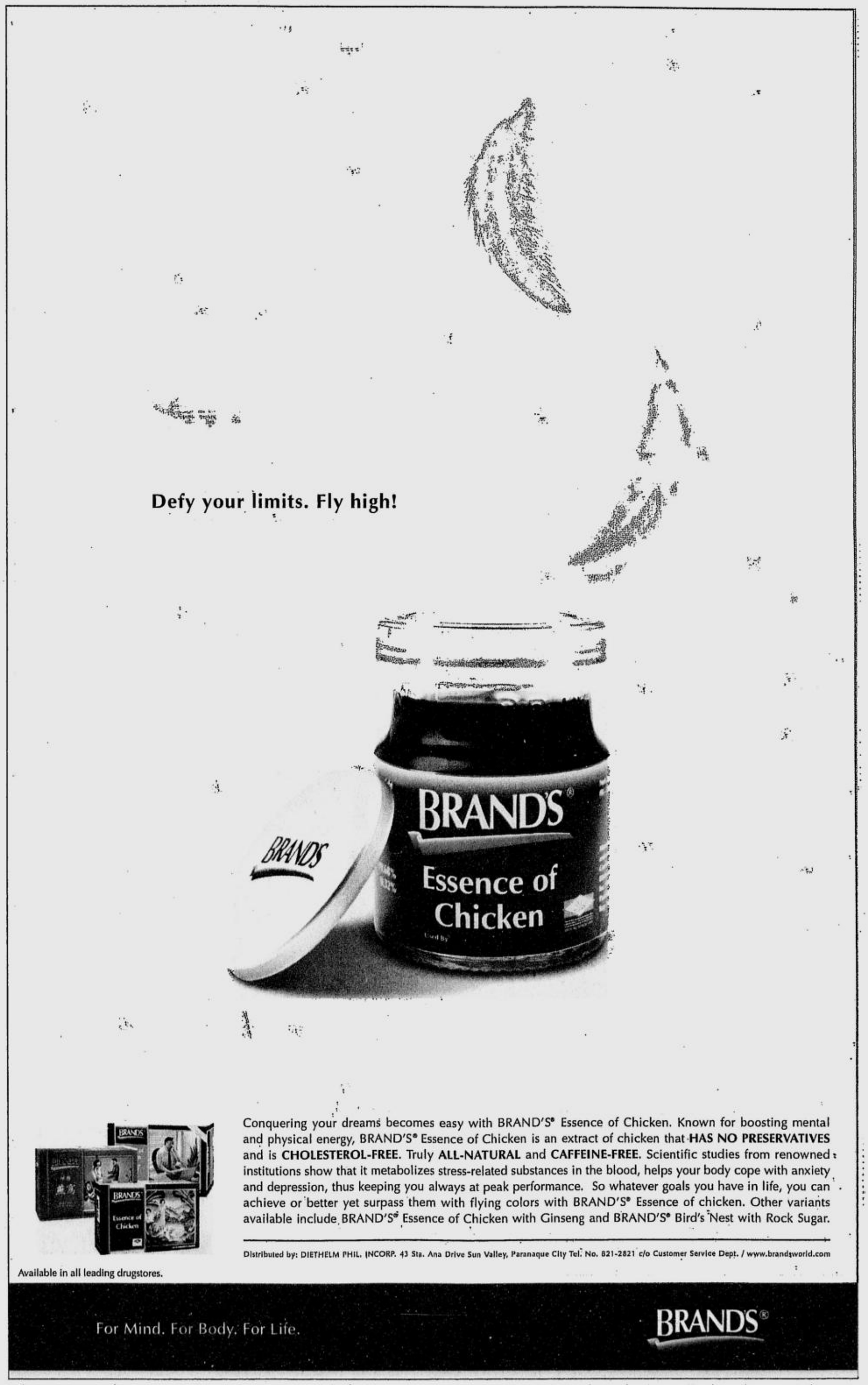
BE careful when you order from Amazon books on the Net. For unknown reasons, the courier companies will charge you a host of taxes, which are not specified when you make your order.

She's wild, wild, wild

AT THE RETRO party recently at the Rockwell Center, this socialite and matron—the wife of a Mindanao governor and mother of a lawmaker—embarrassed many with her wild, inebriated ways.

Sashaying her way to an actor, who is very much married, she gave the ultimate pick-up line, "You know I don't usually go for married men, but with you I'll make an exception." The actor blushed and smiled and looked alarmingly at his 8-year-old daughter who, thank God, was fast asleep in the arms of her *yaya*.

As if that was not enough, the politician's wife jumped on the ledge and danced savagely with her equally intoxicated *amigas*. Seeing that there was a television crew, she motioned to the camera man and shouted at him, "Hey, take some shots of us! I know your boss! He likes me, but I prefer his son!"



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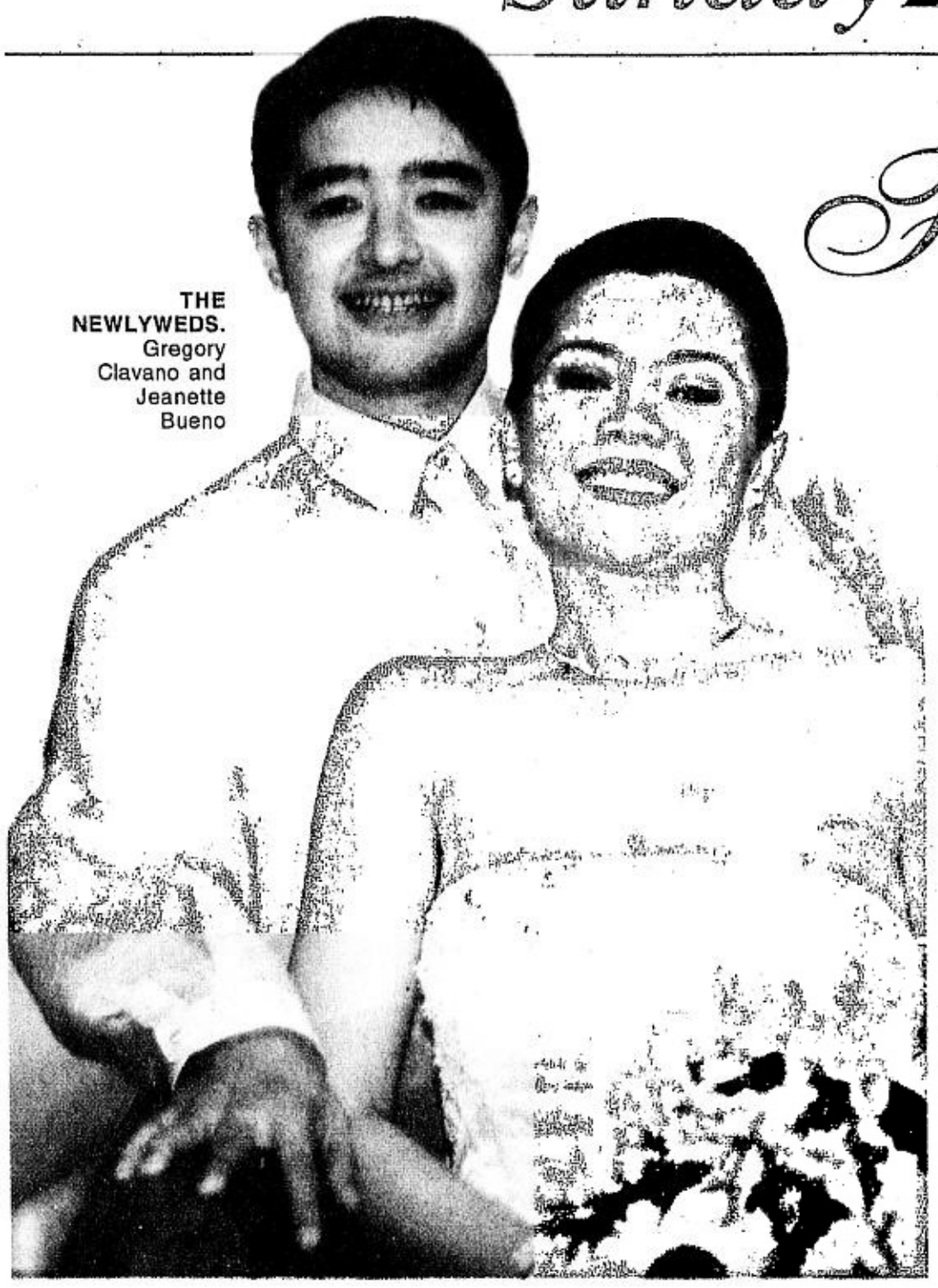
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings & Engagements

CLAVANO-BUENO

From coffee to matrimony



THE NEWLYWEDS. Gregory Clavano and Jeanette Bueno

GREGORY Clavano and Jeanette Bueno tied the knot on Sept. 27 at the posh Sanctuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park.

The two met over coffee at Starbucks and after going steady for two years, decided to grow old together and take good care of each other.

Fathers Artemio Raymundo and Diosdado Haber officiated the solemn celebration.

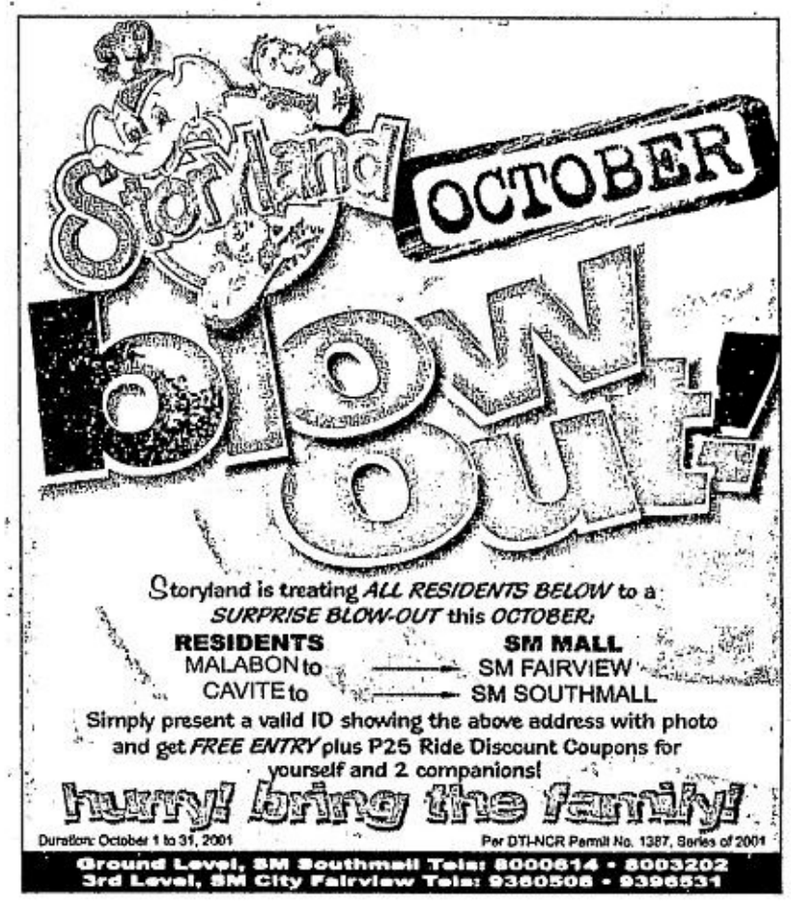
Standing as the couple's second parents were Remigio de Guzman (proxied by Ador de Guzman), Rita Eala, Erlindo Derupe, Florita Diaz, Miguel Diaz, Dr. Paciencia Disini, Rubio Guttierres, Flerida Marcelo, Col. Nestor Ochoa, Ella Pajarillaga, Benedicto Relucio, Charito Santillan, Dr. Jose Oreta Jr., Dr. Belen Silverio (proxied by KitKat Zobel), Danilo Relucio and Rosita So. Best man was Graciano Geoffrey Clavano, the groom's brother, while the bride's sister Josephine Gopiao stood as matron of honor, both flew in from the United States to witness the magical moment. Secondary sponsors were Sandy Daza and Salimah Odi for the candles, Jesus Crispin Remulla and Gina Osmeña for the veil, and Lorenzo Villaluna and Ma. Carmela Surla for the cord. Richard Gomez, a good friend of the couple, stood as Scripture reader. He came with his wife Lucy.

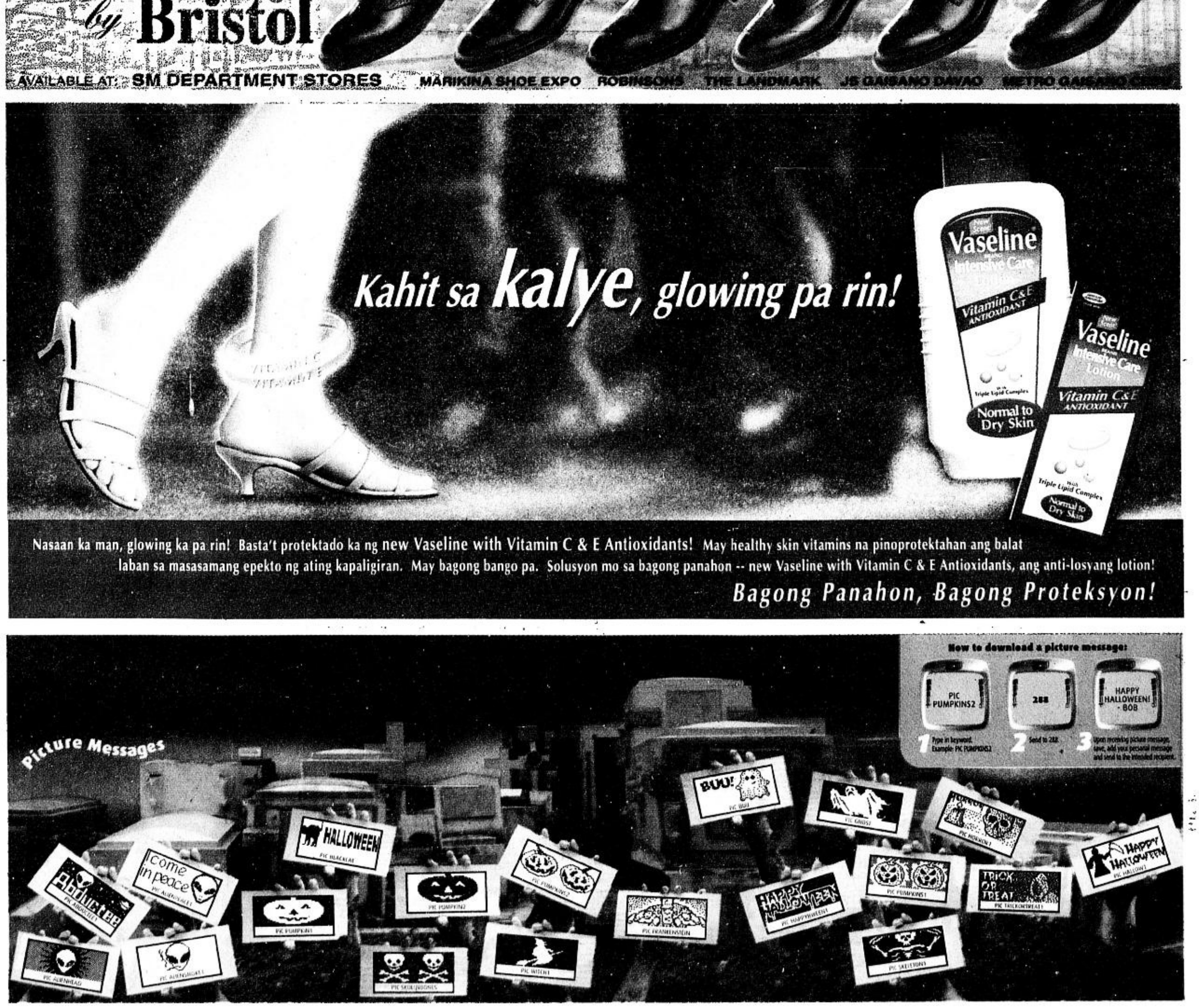
After the ceremony, some 300 families and friends gathered at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel where a feast of roasted calf and buffet delighted the guests.

The program was prepared by the bride in

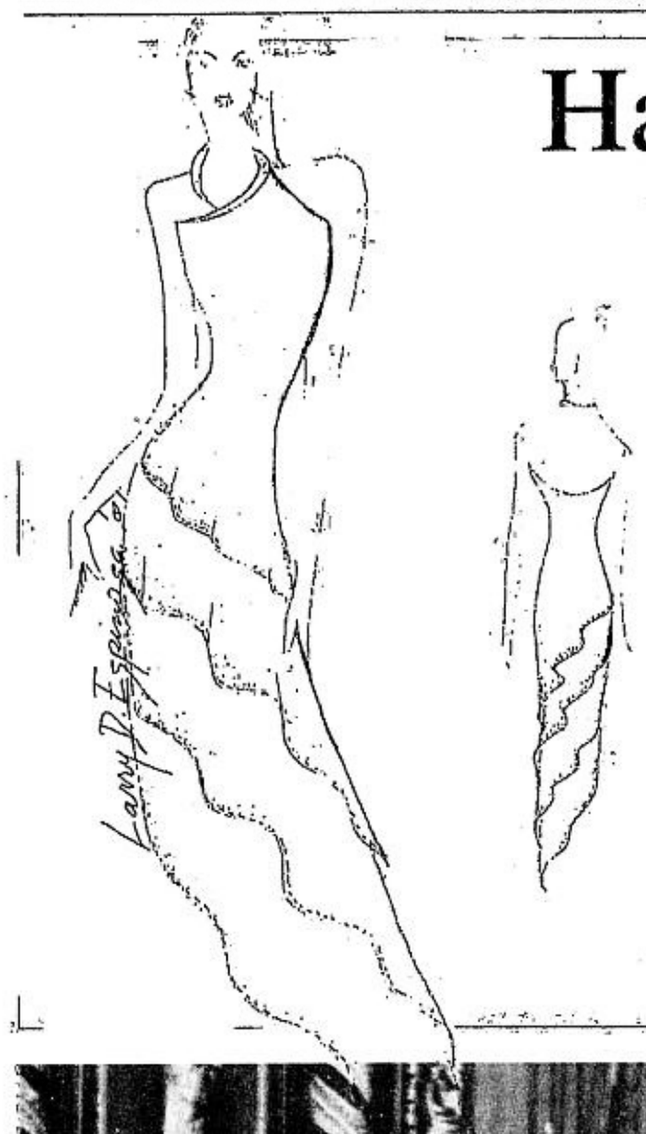
FROM/p.F2

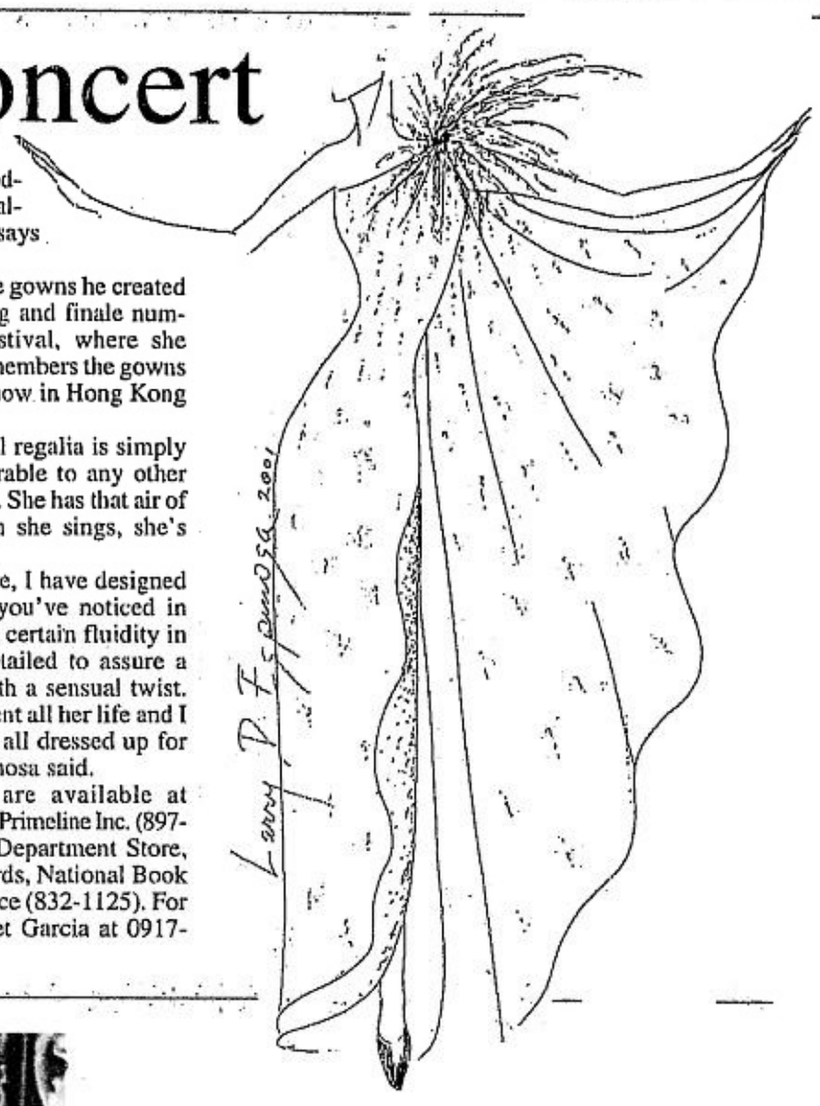
They met at Starbucks and decided they wanted to enjoy coffee together for life





Haute couture in concert





ONE of the reasons top fashion designer Larry Espinosa gets so excited whenever he has to create something for singer Lani Misalucha is the challenge of making her exotic looks shine. He will try to meet the challenge again when Misalucha holds a two-night concert at the CCP Main Theater on Oct. 30 and 31. In "Lani Misalucha: A Nightingale Sings," the singer is joined by the 40-piece Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, flutist Antonio Maigue, tenor Ramon Acoymo and Kuh Ledesma.

"Actually, this is a long-time promise I gave Lani," Espinosa said. "I told her that someday, she'll be performing at the CCP and there will be no one else to dress her up but me. Now it's finally here. I am merely keeping a promise to a good friend who happens to be one of my most favored clients."

Espinosa first saw Misalucha in one of her television appearances sometime in the mid-'90s. What caught his attention was Misalucha's exotic Filipina look, good voice and stylish singing. True enough, Misalucha has emerged into a beautiful and formidable nightingale.

"I first met Lani personally when a friend, Chie Narvaez, brought her to my shop in Makati. That initial meeting sparked out a warm, personal rapport between the two of us which has lasted till today. I've always admired Lani's character, her attitude and her inherent goodness. This is the reason I've always loved dressing her up," says Espinosa.

Espinosa vividly recalls the gowns he created for Misalucha for her opening and finale numbers in the Asian Song Festival, where she emerged a winner. He also remembers the gowns that he created for her for a show in Hong Kong in 1999.

"Seeing her perform in full regalia is simply mesmerizing. Lani is comparable to any other female singer here and abroad. She has that air of mystery about her and when she sings, she's really fantastic," he said.

"For her CCP performance, I have designed five sensational gowns. As you've noticed in the designs, I chose to have a certain fluidity in all of them. Every cut is detailed to assure a glamorous and elegant fit with a sensual twist. Lani has waited for this moment all her life and I want to make sure that she's all dressed up for this momentous event," Espinosa said.

Tickets to the concert are available at Ticketworld outlets (891-5610), Primeline Inc. (897-6170/897-6172), Robinsons Department Store, Music Museum, Tower Records, National Book Store and at the CCP Box Office (832-1125). For ticket deliveries, call Monolet Garcia at 0917-2417907 or 0919-6543586.

THE NEWLYWEDS with the bride's family

From coffee to matrimony

(From page F1)

collaboration with the coordinators, the Big Day Events Specialists and hosted by former RPN 9 anchorwoman Cielo Villaluna and good friend Ingky Reyes.

For the few guests who weren't able to make it to the church, highlights of the ceremony were shown during the reception courtesy of Glisaz Video while ace photographer Eddie Boy Escudero captured the precious moments. Family and friends partied until early morning as they were entertained by Jimmy Bondoc with the Essence Band.

At present, the couple is in Europe enjoying their month-long honeymoon.

THE COUPLE with the groom's family

THE RADIANT bride.

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Side A • TONE SOMANY • Tell Me • Side A • TONE TELLME •
Side A • Forevermore • So Many Questions • She's the One • Robbie Williams • TONE FOREVERMORE • The Girl's So Right For Me • Side A • TONE THEGIRL • Halloween • Zed • TONE HALLOWEEN •
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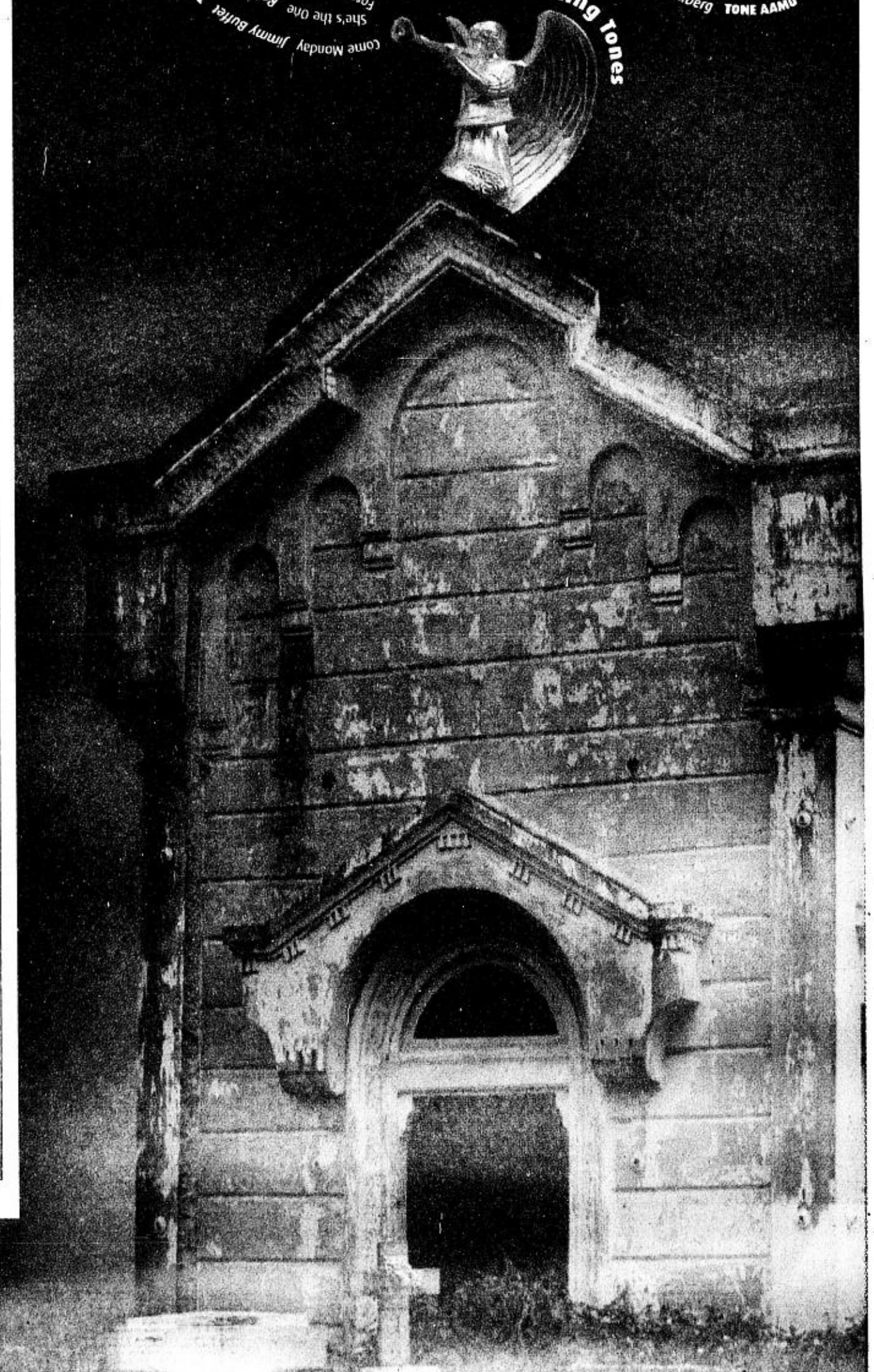

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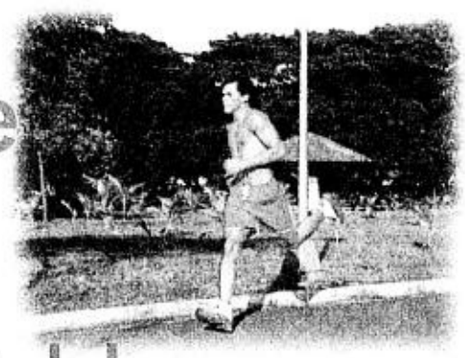

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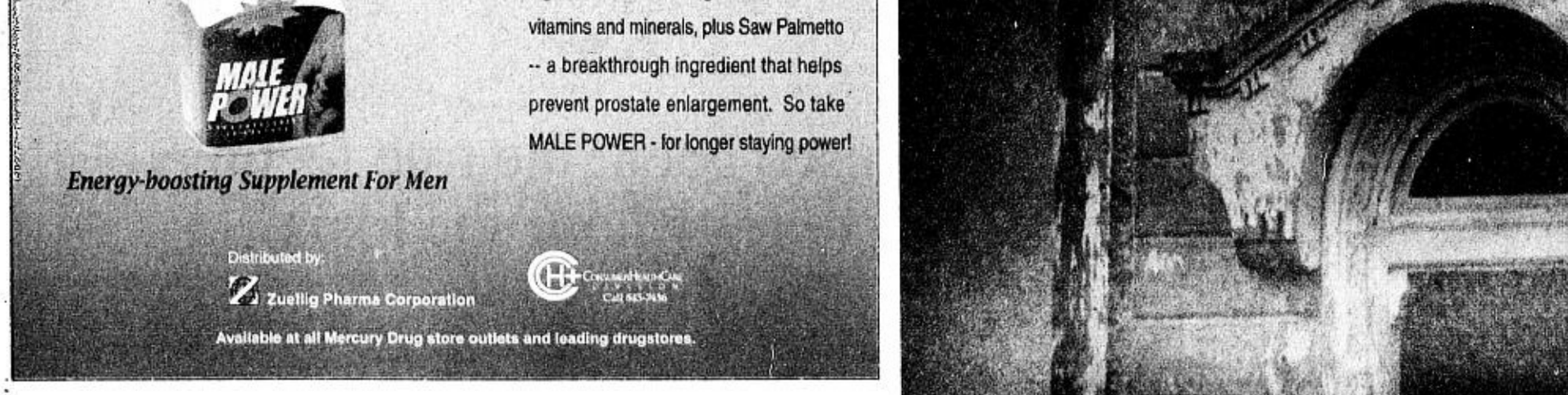

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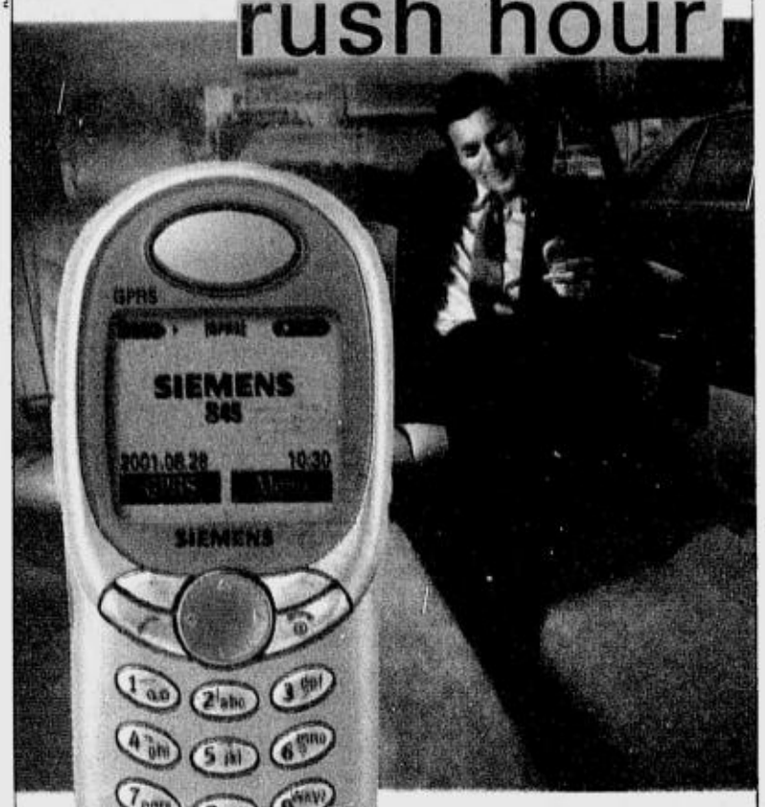

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- Enhanced Messaging Service (EMS): Send/receive pictures and melodies
- GPRS for faster data access
- Improved water, dust and shock resistance compared to conventional phones
- Full featured address book (500 contact names with 14 entries each)
- Extended organizer (appointments, notes, task lists)
- Microsoft Outlook® synchronization
- Flexible memory allocation
- Mobile Internet access (WAP 1.2)
- One touch silent and keypad lock

*network dependent

be inspired

FRANCISCO DEBUT

Ma. Roxanne Cecille Francisco, daughter of **Rolando** and **Cecilia Francisco,** will celebrate her 18th birthday on Nov. 10 at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila. She will be escorted by **Yoshihiro Shimane** and **Ivan Gonzales.** Her gown is designed and created by **Jun Marcelino.**

TAGALAG DEBUT

Nerene "Nye" Marie Jhocson Tagalag, eldest daughter of engineer **Nemesio** and Dr. **Maricar Jhocson Tagalag,** celebrated her 18th birthday on Oct. 13, at the Rizal Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Nye wore a **Boying Eustaquio** creation. She is taking up legal management at the Ateneo de Manila University.

MENARDO DEBUT

Arriane Menardo, daughter of Dr. and Ms **Alex Menardo,** recently celebrated her debut at the Astoria Plaza. Arriane is a hotel and restaurant administration freshman at the University of the Philippines. Her gown was designed by **Mila Santiago de Leon.**

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

SERVITO-PABLO

1st Lt. **Richard T. Servito** of the Army Light Armor Brigade, son of Mr. and Ms **Felix J. Servito,** and 1st Lt. **Rachel R. Pablo** of the Army 6th Infantry Division, daughter of (ret.) Col. and Ms **Virgilio R. Pablo,** exchanged marriage vows on Aug. 4 at the Malate Catholic Church in Manila. Army Chaplain Capt. **Daniel D. Tansip** of the 8th Infantry Division officiated the Mass and solemnized their wedding. Members of the AFP Officer Candidate School Balikatan Class 12-94 welcomed the couple in the traditional arch of swords. The bride wore **Rosario Ico**'s beaded white satin creation.

MONTOYA-BIAG

Lt. **Jessie L. Montoya,** son of Mr. and Ms **Benjamin E. Montoya,** and Capt. **Lea L. Biag,** daughter of Mr. and Ms **Moises Biag,** exchanged vows on June 15 at the Cathedral of Iglesia ni Cristo in Baguio City. Reception followed at the Hotel Supreme. The entire ceremony was celebrated in military tradition.

The bride wore her own design, which was executed by **Ding Baluyut** of Mabalacat, Pampanga. The gown was embellished with beads, bugles, crystals and sequins.

CAJUCOM-RIVERA GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Judge and Ms **Norberto L. Cajucom Sr.** (née **Gloria Gungad Rivera**) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 6 with a thanksgiving Mass and renewal of marriage vows officiated by Rev. Msgr. **Michael Alexander E. Balaria,** Rev. Msgr. **Ernesto D. Lumanlan** and Very Rev. **Regino M. Vigilia** at the Dambana ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo, Cabanatuan City. Their 11 children—**Noreen, Grace, Lenore, Norman, Napoleon, Leonides, Necasio, Glenn, Noel, Nicodemus** and **Norberto Jr.**—and their respective spouses, grandchildren, relatives and close friends joined the couple in the celebration. Reception followed at the Guadalajara Ballroom, La Parilla Hotel, Cabanatuan City.

LAURETA-BALLECER

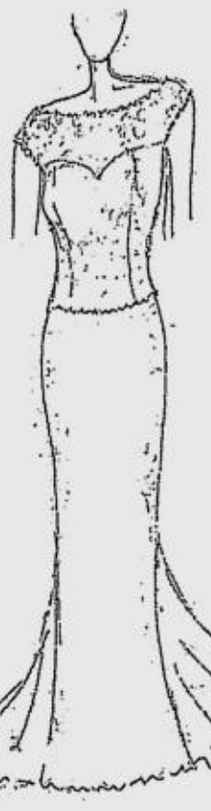
Joseph Desquitado Laureta, son of **Gregorio** and **Eulogia Laureta,** exchanged vows with **Glorieta Panganiban Ballecer,** daughter of engineer **Honorato** and **Gloria Ballecer Jr.,** on June 17 at the Bulwagang Tejeros, AFP Commission Officer's Club, Camp General Aguinaldo, QC. The bride wore an ivory duchess satin off-shoulder gown with a serpentine skirt and cathedral train embellished with iridescent cut-glass beads and minute pearls. The gown was designed by the bride and executed by **Claro Yangco.**

BARAYANG-CASTOR

Lio Barayang and **Peach Castor** tied the knot on Oct. 21 at the Shrine of Jesus, Pasay City. Reception followed at the Heritage Hotel.

MANALO-MISIERA

Carlos Francisco M. Manalo wed **Janette Misiera** on Sept. 30 at the Malate Catholic Church. Reception was held at the Ilustrado Restaurant, Intramuros.



LIWANAG-CALUMPIANO

Pastor **Rodel Mora Liwanag,** a US-based Filipino pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, will wed Dr. **Prospil Partoza Calumpiano,** an internist-cardiologist affiliated with Manila Sanitarium Hospital and St. Luke's Medical Center, on Nov. 18 at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Hanford, California, to be officiated by Elders **James Stevens** and **Dem Robles.** Reception will follow at Holiday Inn, Visalia. The groom is the son of Mr. and Ms **Benjamin Liwanag Sr.** of Los Angeles, California. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Ms **Prospero Calumpiano** of Hanford, California.

She is confused about the true feelings of her suitor whom she likes

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

I just came out of a relationship and promised myself not to jump into another one for the meantime. But I guess fate had its own plans for me. After learning that I had broken up with my boyfriend, a friend of mine started looking for an eligible replacement. She introduced me to Gem and his best friend, Gary. After that, whenever Gem and I pass each other, exchange of words was limited to just "hi's" and "hello's." But it was different in the case of his best friend. Gary started courting me. Sensing that his best friend was not making any progress to win my affection, Gem stepped in and started playing bridge. But every time he put in a good word for Gary, I just shrugged it off and simply told him that I was not interested. For that reason, Gem and I became close and eventually started liking each other. Gary, on the other hand, realizing that there was no hope, left me alone and stopped courting me. But it wasn't that easy.

Gem then told me how much he regretted it when he wasn't able to tell me earlier what he really felt. But although he liked me so much, he said that he just couldn't be involved with me. Doing so, according to him, would appear that he was betraying his best friend. He told me that Gary still loves me and he didn't want him to get hurt. He can't afford losing Gary's trust and friendship. Gem kept on sending me missed signals and it made me really confused. Although I like him so much, I didn't give in to my emotions 'cause his real intentions were not clear. I don't want to invest into something which might lead to nowhere. But despite all this, we both knew that the feeling was mutual, only that, we were both having difficulty coming into terms with the situation.

But the worst part was yet to come. My friend asked me if there was really something going on between me and Gem. I denied it 'cause there was really nothing to tell. I told her that I felt Gem was courting me but I was not sure whether to take him seriously or not. My friend, probably not content with what I said, came up to Gem without my knowledge and asked the same question. What he told my friend really hurt and wounded my ego. I learned from her that Gem denied that he was courting me and said that he was just being nice to me for the sake of Gary. I thought that there was really something special going on between us. But I was wrong.

I never really confronted him regarding the matter. It was better this way than risking myself and be hurt all over again. I started avoiding him and began acting cold and distant. He was really surprised with my actions but I didn't care. He deserved it, anyway. The last time we talked over the phone, I was really surprised when he told me that he knew the reason I was acting strange toward him and that was because of something what my friend had told me. I denied it and told him that my friend had nothing to do with it. He told me not to believe any of those things but I was too stubborn to listen to him. He never called me since then.

It has been two months since our last conversation and I'm starting to miss him. I do have my pride and it will really kill me to make the first move. I don't want to give him the satisfaction of seeing me softening toward him. After all, I was the one who was hurt and he was the one who led me on. Am I wrong not to give him a chance to explain his side? Whom shall I believe? I am trying to forget him but it is not that easy since until now I am still wondering if those very words really came from the person whom I had learned to trust and like very much. Did he really like me or was just playing a game at my expense?

ARIANNE

Sometimes, the difficulty of being a woman is not being too forward in vague relationships. A lot of men are afraid to show their feelings. They are not too vocal about their sentiments either. They send confusing signals that are quite difficult, if not too presumptuous, to interpret.

Your friendship with Gem deserves the benefit of an honest-to-goodness dialogue. Relying on and acting upon information from a third party which may sometimes be inaccurate can have devastating results. A person's interpretation of the emotion of someone else can be different and may not always be reflective of his true feelings. Talking to Gem doesn't mean that you are softening toward him. It just means that you value the importance of an open and honest communication which leads to better understanding.

A lot of relationships fail to blossom because people are afraid to express their feelings. They love to give meaning to unspoken signals and judge a person's actions without looking beyond what might have driven them to act that way. They tell others but not the person involved and soon, they suffer in silence, unmindful of the storm that they stir inside them. Each unspoken word and repressed feeling feed energy to this stir of emotions that may one day just explode and destroy the very relationship people are trying to build together.

Communication is the lifeblood of every relationship. We should not be afraid to ask questions and to answer truthfully when there are queries. Only when we are honest with ourselves and those around us can we see beyond the smile or the frown. Only when we listen with our hearts can we understand the meaning of silence and hear the words that are never spoken.

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MANAGERIAL

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BRANCH SALES OFFICER
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Will be responsible in account solicitation for the branch and assisting in the servicing and maintenance of existing account holders
- Minimum 2 years experience in a Sales/Marketing function in a bank or any financial institution
- Good communication skills

BRANCH SALES SPECIALIST
- Graduate of any 4 year course with strong inclination and high aptitude for sales
- This is an entry position eventually leading to Sales Officership. Qualified candidates will undergo classroom and on the job training involving field sales calls, sales planning, prospecting, appointment getting and presentation. Candidates are expected to attain targets for number of sales calls, account opened and volume of funds generated

BRANCH SALES ASSOCIATE
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Minimum 1 year bank experience in Branch Operations

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- Open to recent graduates of any 4 year business course
- Will be responsible in client/account servicing in the branch

SERVICE HEAD
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Will be responsible for the over-all Branch Operations
- Minimum 2 years experience as Branch Operations Officer or have handled both Branch Cashier and Branch Accountant positions in any Commercial/Universal Bank

FOR HEAD OFFICE

ACCOUNT OFFICER (KALOOKAN & CAGAYAN DE ORO)
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Will be responsible in evaluating and recommending Credit facilities/loan proposals. Candidates will also market and manage borrowing clients' availments, collections and accommodations of credit facilities
- Minimum 3 years experience as Corporate Account Officer in any Commercial/Universal Bank

ASSET-LIABILITY MANAGEMENT OFFICER
- Will be responsible in preparation and analysis of management reports, such as interest rate, gap analysis and various simulations, monitoring and managing of balance sheet risks of the Bank given recommendations to matters affecting over-all performance of the Bank
- Minimum 1 year experience in Asset-liability Management or Risk Management function of a Commercial/Universal Bank
- Candidates must be familiar with the Bank's business operations and various BSP rules and regulations

CREDIT REVIEW OFFICER
- Will be responsible for the credit process review; evaluation and rating; analysis and classification of credit risk and loan loss reserve recommendations
- Minimum 2 years in lending operations, financial analysis, credit or account management
- Good communication skills

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- Minimum 1 year experience as Secretary
- Proficient in Windows application
- Good communication skills

INFORMATION SYSTEM AUDITOR
- Graduate of BS Computer Science
- Will be responsible for the testing and audit of existing and new IT systems of the Bank
- Experience in Audit and Information Technology will be an advantage

LOAN OPERATIONS HEAD
- Graduate of BS Accountancy; preferably a CPA; experience in ROPOA accounting will be an advantage
- Will be responsible for overall supervision of Commercial Loans Accounting and reports preparations
- Minimum 5 years experience in Commercial Loans Operations

MARKETING OFFICER
- Will be responsible for marketing of properties acquired by the Bank
- Experience in Financial analysis and packaging and willingness to travel are required for the position
- Hardworking and has good communication skills

RECONCILIATION SPECIALIST
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Will be responsible for reconciliation of Due to From Local and Foreign Bank accounts
- Computer literate

SENIOR BOOKKEEPER
- Graduate of BS Accountancy; related experience in Treasury or Accounting will be an advantage
- Will be responsible for the bookkeeping of all Treasury products; maintenance of subsidiary ledgers and preparation of both internal and external reports
- Superior analytical skills; high tolerance for stress and ability to work with minimum supervision are a must

SYSTEMS ENGINEER
- Graduate of BS ECE or BS COE
- Will be responsible for hardware and software installation and configuration; maintenance and troubleshooting PCs and peripherals
- Minimum 1 year experience in hardware and software installations and computer network maintenance; with knowledge in Win 95/98, MS Office, Outlook, Access

TELECOM ENGINEER
- Graduate of BS ECE
- Minimum 2 years experience in PABX/KTS & line installation & administration; Proficient in SCS, wire communication & transmission; LAN/WAN operations; with knowledge in Win 95/98, MS Office, Outlook, Access

TRADE & LOANS BOOKKEEPER
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Will be responsible for bookkeeping of all loans transactions for the Binondo area
- Computer literate

Interested parties are requested to send their comprehensive resumés to any of the addresses below with a 2x2 photo attached.

(POSITION APPLIED FOR)
Human Resource Management Cluster
4/F iBank Exchange Building, 142 Amorsolo St.
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Visit our Website at www.ibank.com.ph

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We need new Blood!!! Good ones!!!

STORE MANAGERS (CODE: SM 001)
- ✓ Has extensive managing skills. At least one year experience in managing retail store/s.
- ✓ Computer literate.
- ✓ He or She should be 25-30 years of age.
- ✓ Preferably residing near Cainta and the Northern parts of Metro Manila.
- ✓ Has a very pleasing personality and a good moral character.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (CODE:AE 002)
- ✓ Will be handling our wholesale transactions.
- ✓ Highly Organized and Accurate when preparing reports.

Single, Preferably Female , 21-25 years of age, Good Communication Skills.

SALES ASSOCIATES (CODE: SA 003)
- ✓ He or She should be 21-25 years of age, College graduate (Preferably IT courses).
- ✓ Preferably residing near Cainta and the Northern part of Metro Manila.
- ✓ Has a very pleasing personality, punctual and a good moral character.
- ✓ Experience in sales is an advantage.
- ✓ Computer Literate.

IT ASSOCIATES
- ✓ 21-25 years of age, college graduate.
- ✓ Must be proficient in both computer hardware and software.
- ✓ Very punctual and with a good moral character.

You can personally bring your resume or send them to:
Fax: 7275015
Mail: Unit I-10, G/F Pearl Lane, Virramall, Greenhills
E-Mail: ericferdinand@hotmail.com
Please address them to Mr. Roni Rubio

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to be part of its Controllership Division as

- ○ **Managers**
- ○ **Officers / Analysts**
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Female, not over 35 years old, with at least two (2) years work experience in all accounting operations in the same capacity, proficient in computer software applications and willing to be assigned in any SM Group of Companies.

SELLING SUPERVISORS

Female, not over 35 years old, graduate of any 4-year business course, with at least one (1) year experience in retail operations, food chains or sales in the same capacity and with well-developed human relations and decision making skills.

Interested parties may apply personally from Mon. to Fri., 9am - 5pm or send their comprehensive resume with recent photo to:

The Recruitment Division Manager
400 Carlos Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila

(Please bring 3 pcs. 2 x 2 colored picture with white background and original copy of College Diploma and Transcript of Records).

E-mail: Recruit.SM.HO@sm.shoemart.com

Isis International-Manila, an international women's media information and communication service organisation based in Quezon City, is in search of the following to join its dynamic and motivated team:

• Information and Communication Technology Development Officer

She is primarily responsible for a) developing ICT-based information and communication services; b) ensuring that the technical requirements for hosting and maintaining electronic mailing lists and online conferences, internet-based news service for Isis and key partners are met, and c) taking the lead in website development and innovation.

Essential Skills:

- ICT experience specifically on networking, systems development and project management
- ability to design and implement ICT solutions
- experience in web design and site management
- experience in design, installation, configuration, and administration of mailing list services
- experience in implementing web-based databases
- experience in LINUX, Unix, Windows NT and web-based applications
- highly proficient in using HTML to build sites
- strong writing and analytical skills
- strong networking skills within the context of the women's movement
- strong analysis of the use of ICT for women's empowerment
- experience in working in an NGO environment preferable
- ability to communicate effectively in written and spoken English
- a team player
- willing to relocate to Quezon City, Philippines for at least 2 years
- graduate of any IT or computer-related course

Salary Range: Php. 30,000.00/month (US$600)

• Two Project based staff:

Post: **DATABASE MANAGER**
Project duration: 2 years

She will work as a project based staff responsible for a) expanding and updating the Isis-developed databases as well as of Isis key networks, and generating information from these (e.g. targeted mailing lists); b) training of Isis staff in the use and maintenance of the databases; c) making recommendations and implementing changes that will enhance Isis' databases for greater usability and access, and d) participation in the work of Information Technology Team in implementing the organization's strategic plan in relation to ICT development

Essential Skills:

- strong writing, analytical, and networking skills
- experience in LINUX, Unix, Windows NT, MS-Access, Visual Basic and Postgres
- previous experience in research
- previous experience in facilitating networking processes within the context of the women's or other social movements.
- experience in working in an NGO environment preferable
- ability to communicate effectively in written and spoken English
- a team player
- Bachelor's degree in Library and Information Management, Computer Management or related courses or equivalent experience.
- willing to relocate to Quezon City, Philippines for at least 2 years

Honorarium: Php 30,000.00/month (US$600.00)

Post: **RADIO AND ALTERNATIVE MEDIA OFFICER**
Project duration: 2 years

She will be responsible for a two-year project a) developing the broadcast component of Isis' media information and communication work; b) coordinating Isis' radio productions; c) planning and coordinating radio production training courses; d) developing new approaches to Isis' campaign for gender-sensitive media; and support to women media practitioners in their advocacy for gender-sensitive media, and e) assisting in the expansion and consolidation of Isis' networks of media practitioners, media analysts and activists.

Essential Skills:

- awareness and understanding of women and media issues
- work experience in at least two communications media, e.g., print, radio, audio-visual, electronic
- excellent networking, electronic communication skills including email, mailing lists, online conferences
- high degree of proficiency in written and spoken English
- strong writing and analytical skills
- strong analysis of the use of radio and alternative media for women's empowerment
- experience in working in an NGO or community–based environment highly preferable
- a team player
- Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts, Mass Communications or related courses or equivalent experience
- willing to relocate to Quezon City, Philippines for at least 2 years project

Honorarium: Php. 30,000/month (US$ 600.00)

Special Benefits for Expatriates:

For expatriates relocating to the Philippines, there will be a modest relocation package and benefits in addition to the monthly salary, which include the following:

- monthly salary to be paid in US$ and pesos
- a monthly housing allowance of US$270
- a lump sum subsidy of US$500 for furnishings
- annual one month's paid home leave, including roundtrip airfare to home country or the equivalent fare cost
- subsidy for additional fright cost during transfer to and from the Philippines

NOTE: For Filipinos, monthly salary shall be paid in Pesos (as indicated).

Interested parties may send their application letter, resume and two reference letters by **November 20, 2001** to:

The Executive Director
Isis International-Manila
#3 Marunong St., Central District, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 4353405; 4353408
Fax No.: (632) 924-1065

For inquiries, you may e-mail us at **isis@isiswomen.org**

A BOI-REGISTERED MANUFACTURING COMPANY LOCATED IN LAGUNA, ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING OF PLASTIC PARTS, WOULD LIKE TO INVITE HIGHLY MOTIVATED INIDIVIDUAL TO BE THE

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
(Code: HRM)

Male/Female, not more than 40 years old; Graduate of Behavioral Science or other related field, preferably an MA degree holder with extensive experience in developing & implementing programs and policies in all areas of training, recruitment, performance appraisal, job evaluation, career development, compensation and benefits;

He/She must have a thorough grasp of the Philippines Labor laws as well as existing industry standards and practices; must be highly organized, results-oriented, and attentive to details;

ASSISTANT PLANNING MANAGER
(Code: APM)

Male/Female, not more than 35 years old; Graduate of Engineering, preferably Industrial Engineering with substantial experience in handling production control and material control supervision to optimize company resources;

Aside from strong analytical skills, he/she must have a keen sense of judgment especially in forecasting possible events related to work; Highly organized and exudes a mature disposition and the capability to orchestrate team activities, and possesses a well-developed customer relations;

TO THE IDEAL CANDIDATE, WE OFFER COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS PACKAGE AS WELL AS BROAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO WRITE IN CONFIDENCE, INDICATING BRIEF SALARY OBJECTIVE, WITH COMPREHENSIVE RESUME AND RECENT 2x2 PICTURE, NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 15, 2001, ADDRESSED TO:

Code: _____
P.O. Box No. 2177
Makati Central Post Office
Makati City

A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT
Code: R-HRA

- ☑ Female, between 24-28 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/Studies or Human Resource Management
- ☑ Minimum of one (1) year experience in a similar capacity, handling recruitment and administration
- ☑ With very strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- ☑ With excellent oral and written communication skills
- ☑ Possesses a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- ☑ Highly motivated and results-oriented
- ☑ Computer literate

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records, and a recent 2x2 photo to:

BOX 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

PLEASE USE POSITION CODE

ACCOUNTANTS

Our clients, all reputable domestic firms need experienced Accountants.

Those who are in their early 20's to mid 30's with above-average scholastic records, proficient in Word or Excel, will be the ideal candidates.

As the need to fill in the position are urgent, interested applicants are requested to personally submit their resumé and credentials:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.
14th Floor JAKA 6780, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telephone No. 813-1058; Facsimile No. 819-0485
E-mail address: hrd@manilaconsulting.com

Salsa Rossa Ristorante

Soon to open a branch in Libis
is now hiring:

RESTAURANT MANAGER

Female, with pleasing personality. Not more than 30 years old. H.R.M. graduate. With experience in managing restaurant.

RESTAURANT CHEF/COOK

Not more than 30 years old. With experience in Italian cooking, honest, hardworking and flexible, willing to be trained.

WAITER/WAITRESS/BARTENDER

Not more than 26 years old, personable. Energetic and open minded, sales and service oriented. With experience and willing to be trained.

Please bring your resumé with picture and tel. no. on November 5 and 6, 2001 at Salsa Rossa Ristorante, Ground Floor, 8101 Pearl Plaza Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

EL NIDO RESORTS

TEN KNOTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

A world class tourist destination located in Palawan need applicants for immediate employment:

JAPANESE ACCOUNT MANAGER (1)

25-30 years old, female, 1-2 years work experience as account manager or any related field, pleasant, Japanese speaking (required)

Send resumé with picture to **Ten Knots Development Corporation**, HR Department, 2/F Builders Centre Building, 170 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Through e-mail hra@elnidoresorts.com or fax through 894-1134.

Career Opportunities
In line with its expansion program,

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Invites job applicants for the following positions:

HR Specialist
- Female, between 23-35 years old; With excellent written and oral communication skills; Well-rounded in different aspects of HR Work; Experience is an advantage

Accounting Assistant
- Female, between 23-35 years old; Computer literate, organized, self-starter

Supervisors/Department Chiefs
- Female, between 20-30 years old; Self-starter, people-oriented; Willing to work on rotating shifts; Experience in food industry is an advantage

Service Specialists, Counter (Beverage) Specialists, Kitchen Specialists
- Female, 18-26 years old; Graduate of any 4-year course; HRM graduate is an advantage; Self-starter, people-oriented, willing to work on rotating shifts

Please send comprehensive resumé with two pieces (2x2) colored photo ID, and transcript of records to:

UCC **Vienna Café**
#59 Connecticut Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

A **multinational company** in the service industry **URGENTLY** needs:

100 Service Providers

who possess the following qualifications:

- ✓ Male, 20 to 30 years old
- ✓ With at least 2 years of college or vocational education
- ✓ Good written and spoken English
- ✓ With valid driver's license
- ✓ Can work under pressure
- ✓ Must have a pleasant personality and customer relations capabilities

This is for **permanent employment** with a starting basic pay of PhP9,800.00/month with benefits plus an excellent opportunity for career advancement. Please call tel. nos. 750-6138 to 40 or come in person for immediate interview at the address below.

You may also fax your resumé at 751-7305 or send it via email at cesi@netasia.net.

** Those who are interested for Cebu assignment may also send resumés by fax.*

corporate executive search, inc.
Suite 1101 Medical Plaza Makati, Amorsolo corner Dela Rosa Streets
Legaspi Village, Makati City (at the back of Makati Medical Center)
Tel. Nos.: 750-6138 to 40; 751-7303 to 04 • Fax No.: 751-7305

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SALES/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- ⊠ College graduate/Medical course/Business related course
- ⊠ Preferably Nurse who may handle patient as well
- ⊠ At least one year experience in selling preferably in medical supplies
- ⊠ Female, single, 22 to 30 years old
- ⊠ Computer literate
- ⊠ Pleasing personality and proficient in oral and written communications
- ⊠ Friendly and able to relate well with customers

TECHNICAL/SERVICE ENGINEER

- ⊠ ECE graduate
- ⊠ Preferably licensed
- ⊠ Computer literate
- ⊠ At least one year experience
- ⊠ Excellent in interpersonal relations and have good work habits
- ⊠ 22 to 28 years old
- ⊠ Preferably with Driver's License

Interested applicants may submit or e-mail their resumé with 2x2 picture to:

MEDTRONIX Medical Supplies & Equipment
Suite 407 Pasda Mansion
#77 Panay Avenue corner Timog, Quezon City
medtronx@philonline.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ENLIGHTENED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- At least 4 years of college education leading to any formal degree
- 1 to 3 months related experience
- Must have a good voice modulation
- Communication skills

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Ave.
(formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts.,
Makati City

E-mail:
recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

Pioneer
REPUBLIC CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, INC.

The country's leading manufacturer of adhesives, sealants, and packaging materials is looking for qualified individuals to fill in the following positions:

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

(Laguna Based)
Male, 25-35 years old
Graduate of BS Chemical Engineering
(Licensed)
With at least five (5) years related work experience in a manufacturing set-up.
Familiar with Quality System (ISO 9002)
Computer Literate

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CHEMIST

(Laguna Based)
Female, 25-35 years old
Graduate of BS Chemistry
(Licensed)
With at least five (5) years experience in paint, coatings or adhesives.
Familiar with Quality System (ISO 9002)
Computer Literate

NURSE/PERSONNEL SERVICES ASSISTANT

(Laguna Based)
Female, 21-25 years old
Graduate of BS Nursing (Licensed)
With at least one (1) year experience in Industrial Setting
Knows different Health and Safety Techniques
Computer Literate

If you meet the above requirements, Don't Waste Time! Send your Curriculum Vitaé with latest photo or come see us at:

REPUBLIC CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, INC.
731 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City
Tel. No. 721-5781 to 87 loc 203 Fax No. 721-9199
E-mail: mitybond@repchem.com

Grab this **Extraordinary Opportunity**. Your **Future** begins here. If you are highly Motivated, Confident, Hardworking, Goal-oriented, Aggressive and willing to pursue career in Sales, then YOU are the right person we need! We will train you as Sales Specialists and Housing Consultants and develop you into Future Managers / Business Partners.

We offer the following for those qualified:

- Allowance and Generous Commission Rates
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- Systematic Approach of Getting Buyers
- Company Sponsored Marketing Activities
- Generous Incentives and Sales Promos
- Affordable and Easy-to-Sell Housing Projects
- Opportunity to Set-up Your Own Business

*For interested parties, clip this ad and bring your bio-data with picture. Apply in person and look for **Tess** or **Lemuel** at:*

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EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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SECURE YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE NOW
Join Our **PRO TEAM**
Be on the active sales rosters
We Need **400 Highly Motivated Sales People**

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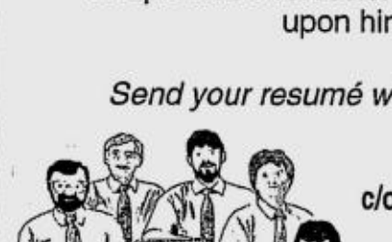
Send your resumé with ID picture to:



Box # KA-010-TI
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg.
636 T.M. Kalaw St.
Ermita Manila

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- ☑ College graduate
- ☑ 24-30 years old
- ☑ Honest and hardworking
- ☑ Proficient in oral and written communication
- ☑ Willing to undergo training
- ☑ Preferably with selling experience
- ☑ To call on hospitals and clinics in Metro Manila and nearby provinces

Bring letter of application, biodata, transcript of records and I.D. pictures to:

Goldstar Medical Systems Inc.
U304 Metropolitan Terraces Condominium Building
Metropolitan Avenue corner Sacred Heart Street
Makati City 1203

Here at The Associates ...

We make your Career our Business.

Associates Finance, Inc. is a Philippine subsidiary of a leading multinational diversified financial services company based in the US. The Associates Finance Inc. is looking for candidates with 2 – 5 years experience in credit analysis, collections, sales and customer service preferably gained from a consumer financing, banking or credit card business. Must be a graduate of a Business course from a reputable school, with excellent communication, presentation and negotiation skills, excellent work standards, strong drive for success, and has the ability to work well under pressure. Preferably residents of Batangas, Cavite, Cebu, Laguna, Pampanga, Rizal, Subic/Zambales and Metro Manila. Must be willing to travel and be assigned in any branch location.

If you are up for the challenge, take the first step towards joining The Associates as we accept applications for the following positions:

Credit / Collection Officers
Customer Service Representatives

Interested candidates may hand carry, mail, fax or e-mail their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and picture ID to:

The Human Resources Director
Associates Finance, Inc.
2nd Floor Dolmar Gold Tower,
C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. 864-8281 Fax No. 816-4777
E-mail: recruitment@afiph.com

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MECHANICAL ENGINEER & CHEMICAL ENGINEER
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AUTOCAD DRAFTSMAN
Architecture graduate or vocational course, min. 3 years experience, fluent in English
DESIGNER
Architecture graduate or vocational course, min. 2 years exp. in waterfall design
MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN
Vocational graduate, knowledge in Electronics is an advantage, min. 2 years exp. in swimming pool field
ELECTRICIAN
Vocational graduate, min. 2 years experience, Certified is an advantage
PLUMBER
Vocational graduate, min. 2 years experience, Certified is an advantage
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H.S. graduate, min. 2 years experience in swimming pool field
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H.S. graduate, min. 2 years experience
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College grad., min. 3 years exp., with computer knowledge, exp. in Admin. is an advantage
Final Interview with Employer on Nov. 6, 2001
All candidates must be MALE, below 35 years old, 5'2" in height, and can speak, read and understand English. Applicants must apply personally and bring 2 sets of the fl: Resumé, NBI clearance, Diploma, Cert. of Employment/Training, 2x2 picture, Passport copy, original passport & other credentials to:

A&A **INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES SPECIALIST**
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109 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong, Pasig City / Tel. Nos. 6873252 / 6872503
No fees to be collected*Mag-ingat sa illegal recruiters*This ads is allowed under MC-2.

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- College Graduate preferably major in Fine Arts
- 2 years experience as Graphic Designer
- 1 year experience in publishing
- Skilled in Manual and Computer Based Illustration

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé and 1x1 ID photo to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
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SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

October 28, 2001
Volume 14 No. 34

Christopher de Leon Wants You To be A Millionaire

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Blue Jazz

1. Everyman is Adam; everywoman Eve
Often lacking metaphor to believe.

But that isn't our Genesis or end
Deeds are indelibly written.

Apple dreams and blankets
Pastime studies in their orbits.

Finding: losing, looking for center
Are we in the palm of the Father.

2. Another explosion awakened the snake
Giving the garden a shove and a quake
Fauna and flora disarrayed and on the ridge
Sebastian and Salimathar lay dead.

Wailed the rabbit, Why, if they want peace-
The snake interrupted, Hisss, hisssss.

3. Mr. Wizard, forgive please
Poetry is not in the trees.
You put in them a sora
To chant your mantra.

Poetry is in each cell
Of the man who is spirituel

He searches the elegance of the line
In the quietness of his mind.

4. It is the fingers of the mind
That impulsed Van Gogh and his made-ness
No pathology transfigured his flowers
These flowers made him wild and windbound.
Genius does not occasion Cause
It's the other way around: the ground.

Absent the poet many a great man is forgotten
Great men keep the poets in the dim
No bother to the wordsmiths
Like moths their dues is *carpe diem*.

5. When the sun rises, I work in the company
When it sets, I reckon the houred coins.
But in the night space the lovely
Moon enchants me to create.

I move in a house of mirrors
I one dance, I two dance.

The reflection is clearer than the original
Mostly as the readouts on the flaccid lake.

6. Futile idolatry: futile idleness
These are twin idols
Two unreasons that never save the reasoner.

Sacred science reveals
Sinners still argue in hell.

7. Only undivorced clarinets pursue
Sweetness jazznew.

In the time of praise in the land
Everyone illumines everyone.

The blind views the world on the spinet
The legless climbs the mountain in spirit.

8. I cry not of pity
To see people impoverished—
Of anguish because they've been robbed
By themselves.

Yes, Sandburg
I too see the culprit kill and go scotfree
At political public speeches
The victims listen hopefully.

9. Now, let us pray:
Hallowed in heaven,
Thanks for our love of beauty
The native climate and thought-field.
Give us every day song
And deliver us from the Ugly, amen.

Jun Cañizares

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The Cover Image Christopher de Leon's got all the answers on prime time's top-rating game show *Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento*

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Editor in Chief — Alya B. Honasan
Managing Editor — Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Associate Editor — Ruel S. De Vera
Staff Writer — Eric S. Caruncho
Graphics Designer — Chuchie Quevedo-See
Editorial Assistant — Sharon M. Felipe
Advertising & Sales Manager — Kenny Nuyda

THE SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808. locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph

Twists of Fate
by Cora Llamas

"Spin a Win" TV host Jeanne Young believes that game shows must offer contestants something beyond cash and prizes. Winning must be a means for people to better their lives, says this self-described "missionary above all else"

"Not Just About Greed"

Caring host: "We built people up"

SHE WAS THE MOST POPULAR GAME SHOW HOST IN HER DAY. VIEWERS WOULD TUNE IN EVERY WEEK, FIRST FOR HALF AN HOUR, THEN LATER FOR THREE HOURS AND A HALF, TO SEE HER HAND OUT PRIZES TO TIRED, HAPPY CONTESTANTS WHO WON EITHER BY LUCK OR BRAIN POWER. THESE DAYS, JEANNE YOUNG, A SELF-DESCRIBED "MISSIONARY ABOVE ALL ELSE," IS HANDING OUT HOPE AND THE TRUTH OF GOD'S LOVE IN CHURCHES AROUND THE COUNTRY.

And she's still doing it with that famous, pearly smile. The still lovely Jeanne is a far cry from the worn-out stereotype of an airhead spinster trudging her Bible in hand-me-down clothes, or a self-righteous fire-and-brimstone preacher. Looking at her, even the cynical might be tempted to believe that Biblical or renewed Christianity might be fun after all.

Why not, when the lady, with divine help, has survived the loss of four small children in her womb and a failed marriage—and has grown stronger because of the experience. The glow in her eyes has not been dimmed by traces of bitterness, resentment or anger.

"Oh, no! (Christian life) is not boring," she laughs aloud in amusement. "The fruits of the Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, what can be boring about that?"

But television producers still need some convincing. Once when Jeanne asked a friend who was a biggie in the TV industry why she wasn't getting offers to host any game show, the guy sheepishly replied, "Well, you might censor everything!"

During the heydays of that TV institution "Spin-A-Win," Jeanne did get a lot of flak from broadcast moguls who objected to her singing a gospel song every now and then. "You're turning this into a religious show," they grumbled. But the audience didn't seem to mind and the ratings remained high.

Roger Carpio

Scriptural passages and references to God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Blessed Mother spring naturally from the lips of this daughter of former actress Mila del Sol. But they don't grate harshly on one's ears with that fanatical, dogmatic holier-than-thou tone that has turned off many people from the more zealous Christians. Neither do her firm opinions on the current state of TV programs.

"All you see in MTV in half-naked women," sighs Jeanne who, prior to her renewed faith, had her share of singing in low-cut fitting gowns, then considered daring in the hedonistic '70s . "It really disturbs me. Kids learn about sexuality at an early age, and they might think that gyrating is the way to go. The music is good, but the interpretation of the artist...Look at Madonna and how she sang 'American Pie'! With that thin piece of cloth barely covering her butt, (the kids) might think that that's all right just because it's Madonna doing it."

Rewarding: Jeanne recalls good moments with "Spin-a-Win"

She finds the average Pinoy game show of today "fluffy and not very substantial. I look for value formation. Do the hosts care about the people? Do they just mouth off the questions to look handsome or pretty? Or do they want the people to win so they can better their lives?"

This particular game show icon turned just a little bit serious for a few moments. "Much of the success of a game show depends on the host. It's important that he or she care for the contestant. In 'Spin-A-Win', we never made fun of the contestants. We built people up and did not tear them down. Even if they lost, we tried very hard not to make people feel bad."

Jeanne has high praises for Christopher de Leon, a fellow Catholic Charismatic actor who's now the number one game show host in the country. "I'm very happy for him," she says simply. "He can do it." At first, though, she had found De Leon a little bit "stilted," probably because the show, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" was heavily patterned after its US counterpart. The hosts act like aggressive salesmen, pushing the contestants to be more competitive.

Jeanne, half American, couldn't disagree more. "I really think that's a mistake, to adopt the way Americans do game shows. We Filipinos are a caring, family-oriented people."

Somewhere along the way, though, she felt that De Leon found a way to be his own man. "Anyone who knows Boyet (de Leon) knows that he's very intense, but he's also very loving and very *kalog*. Now he's more relaxed. And this is just my opinion— something internal must have happened to him. He's free to be himself." Once, De Leon even told a contestant, "God loves you." That made Jeanne very happy. "Game shows are not just about greed."

Her more rewarding memories of "Spin-A-Win" comes from knowing that, beyond providing people a couple of hours of thrills, it also inspired them to aim for something higher and better and, ultimately, more long-lasting than a new appliance or money in the bank. The "Spin-A-Win" gang didn't limit their gift-giving to the contestants; everyone who stepped into the set — from the guards, janitors, reporters, and their families — went home with at least a bag of groceries, if not more. One poor boy

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Perspective
by Ruel S. De Vera

Is the game show boom ushered in by 'Millionaire' A) a sign of the desperate times; B) a welcome change; C) the next big thing, or D) all of the above?

Not the Final Answer

WHEN I WAS A LITTLE YOUNGER, THE 7 P.M. DINNER HOUR MEANT ONLY ONE THING IN OUR HOUSEHOLD: "JEOPARDY!" TOTING TRAYS HAPHAZARDLY PILED WITH THE NIGHT'S MEAL, WE WOULD RACE FOR A CHOICE SPOT IN FRONT OF THE TV SET. FOR THE REST OF THE HALF-HOUR, MY SIBLINGS AND I WOULD COMPETE WITH THE TV CONTESTANTS WHILE HOST ALEX TREBEK SEEMED TO SMILE AMUSEDLY BACK AT US. I DIDN'T DO TOO BADLY, BUT THE OTHERS INVARIABLY DID BETTER.

Game shows have been part of our family ritual for years. We would give all the game shows their due: Bob Barker's gaudy "The Price is Right" showcases, "Family Feud" with all that its surveys said, and whatever wheels, pyramids and squares bore fortune and fame. After all, we could watch fellow Filipinos tempt fate time and again on that warhorse of a Sunday staple, "*Kuwarta o Kahon*" any given weekend. Pepe Pimentel lorded over that domain where thick wads of cash were sometimes given up for a *walis tingting*. Cruel, but entertaining as hell, and far more interesting than any "*Pera O Bawi*" derivative since.

But the quiz show held us in thrall because a contestant needed more than just luck or instincts to win: he needed a torqued medulla oblongata and a really fast trigger finger. The early king of that genre was "Battle of the Brains," which added the dimension of school spirit to the proceedings and made the quiz show a weekly staple. For years, David Celdran was the smiling quizmaster, administering to students a heady dose of brain-twisting questions. On prime time, the effervescent Ariel Ureta briefly showed us just how witty quiz shows could be with the short-lived "Go For It."

But all that came before the prime time monster that is "Who Wants to be a Millionaire." Already a hit worldwide, the show, with Christopher de Leon in the Regis Philbin role, caught most people by surprise by running roughshod over the airwaves, becoming IBC-13's ace in the evening slot. Now, we are all intimately familiar with the show's looming atmosphere, its lifelines and the sleek set lit by what appears to be Nokia blue-lit cell phones. Any friend you phone will tell you how big "Millionaire" really is, how it has turned virtually every TV-viewing household into a quiztocracy.

There are many reasons given for the show's success. The most sociological has to do with the Filipinos' inborn wish for the big score: the TV equivalent of a Sweepstakes or Lotto win, the oft-mention Pinoy need to get rich quick. Then again, if you want instant riches for very little or no effort at all, there's a plethora of noontime experiences in which TV producers distract potential millionaires with a bevy of squirming, screaming girls. Some would say that "Millionaire" succeeds because it plays on these desperate times. The answer to that title question is obvious enough: everybody wants to be a millionaire.

As members of the audience, most people love being back seat contestants. We apply ourselves to each question in mock seriousness, but also perhaps with the sincere desire to see how far up the ladder we can go. So, like the person in the hot seat, we attempt to decipher De Leon's every sigh and facial tic. We rejoice when we get it, and shut up, red-faced, when we don't. This vicarious competitive streak speaks less of the *arriviste* in us, and maybe more of the closet intellectual in everybody.

But perhaps it's the simple fact that "Millionaire" really makes for good drama, in effect, becoming a soap opera for trivia buffs. On almost every night of the week, it provides an eternal battle against nerves and mental block. We identify with certain contestants while disliking others, investing in selected people the kind of zest and bile we usually reserve for sports. Because, in its own way, "Millionaire" is gladiatorial combat, Garry Kasparov versus Big Blue, Pinoys raging against the machine. It is our latest, most vigorous attempt to defeat the system, again, something everybody wants to do.

Perhaps the best proof of the show's success is its sheer ubiquity. On a recent Saturday evening, you could actually have caught Boyet and the real show being aired simultaneously with Leo Martinez doing an impersonation on ABC 5's "Ispup" called "No One Can Be A Millionaire." Beyond that, "Millionaire" has triggered an invasion of lookalike shows. Right now, you can't even buy a vowel on TV without tripping on Kris Aquino's brightly colored trench coats on "Game Ka Na Ba?" Pinoy versions of "The Price is Right," "Family Feud" and "Wheel of Fortune" are being dusted off for the new millennium. Beware.

There is still hope, however. To anyone out there who doesn't like their prime time viewing to be completely taken over by game show hosts, not to worry. Natural selection will ensure that the strong will survive and the weakest link will be banished swiftly by a delightfully mirthless Edu Manzano. In the meantime, we take a break from our multiple choice lives to escape to a place where you can get rich simply for being smart, or for reading a lot. We escape to a place where there are always ways of asking for help. We escape to a place where we can just take the money when we can no longer go further.

In the final bonus round, the boom in game shows, as entertaining and educational as the shows may be, represents nothing more than the latest incarnation of our need to cauterize our despair, just the next big thing after Mexican telenovelas and dubbed animé: televised anaesthesia. After all the hoopla and the hope, after daring to dream, we're right back to the primal risk of "*Kuwarta o Kahon*"—except that all the boxes will always be empty.

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire" has triggered our own game-show invasion

Ernie U. Sarmiento

The Day After

For Sean Lugano, and victims of the September 11 bombing

This morning, outside
my window,
the light is just
right on an oak
branch, leaves
moving
in the wind
just so —
as if
no tower burned
and fell, nor any
human died.
What I'm really
saying though:
it's now up to us,
left to live,
to carry on —
with laughter,
with kindness,
with love —
each gifted day —
as if they
had not hated us
and you had not
too early died.

Luis Cabalquinto

Sa Katabi ko sa FX

Sana hindi pumalya ang aircon
o matrapik tayo nang husto

ngayong nanlilisik
ang pagkagising ng araw.

Naglulusak pareho
ang mga kilikili natin

at walang deyodorant
o pabango kaya

ang papawi sa sangsang
ng iniisip ko

tuwing sasagi ang braso ko
sa suso mong lumuluwa

at tutukod ang siko mo
sa itaas ng pundillo ko.

Zosimo Quibilan Jr.

Priority-Check

A horrifying but greatly useful Twin Towers reminder — *by Anne Dingcong*

Long time ago, in a bitter cold winter, a band of Englishmen braved the Atlantic and settled in a seemingly "Godforsaken place." Sensing God's call to leave their comfort zone (for Holland did offer them freedom and safety) they fled to escape Puritan-persecution of King James I. The Pilgrims sensed a call from elsewhere, in the New World, where they "had great hope and inward zeal of laying some good foundation for the propagating and advancing of the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ in these remote parts of the world, yea, though they should be stepping stones to other successes for the performing of so great a work." (The Modern Age, The History of the World in Christian Perspective. Abeka Book Publications: Pensacola College, Florida, p.228)

> God ... is able to do IMMEASURABLY MORE than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us ...
> EPHESIANS 3:20

Their first system of governance in the bleak New England shores became the primary established US civic government; which birthed "popular democracy." Their pursuance of learning through education produced Harvard, Yale and Princeton. Their very first produce of crops was celebrated in America's present-day Thanksgiving Day.

A Destiny from God. Marie Curie said that nothing in this life is to be feared, but only to be understood.

History can settle our fears. A bigger perspective of things is gained when we trace the roots.

America . . . a country that commenced with a destiny from God. America was technically founded in 1000 AD by Leif Erickson (a Viking) but his discovery had no lasting historical consequences. Christopher Columbus' discovery made an impact as it occurred — at the same time the Protestant Reformation was beginning in Europe.

Alexis De Tocqueville, one of Modern Age's profoundest thinkers said, *"as if (America) had been kept in reserve by the Deity and had just risen from beneath the waters of the Deluge."*

America began with a mission from God. It blessed the world with its great men—Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, , Robert E. Lee, George Washington Carver, J.C. Penney, Cyrus McCormick, Adoniram Judson, David Brainerd, Jonathan Edwards.

A Date with the Devil. Yet on September 11, 2001— America had what Leonard Sweet called as *"a date with the devil."* The economic heart and military nervous system were hit by a Boeing bullet—the World Trade Center and the Pentagon respectively.

According to TIME magazine, *"This was the bloodiest day on American soil since our Civil War ...* The Sears Tower in Chicago was evacuated, as were colleges and museums. Disney World, Major League Baseball, the Hoover Dam, the Mall of America, Independence Hall in Philadelphia and Mount Rushmore shut down."

A Bullish Economy. In 1998, David Wilkerson, pastor of the Times Square Church in New York, published his last book entitled *America's Last Call.* Wilkerson observes, *"...America is enjoying an unprecedented prosperity. A recent article in USA Today announced, "America is rolling into the future with an economic confidence unmatched in 30 years."* Despite corporate giants like Eastman Kodak, Boeing and Hasbro are laying-off thousands of workers—Americans are still bullish about the future.

As their bullish economy soars, federal courts outlaw the mention of God's name in public. Judges ban symbols of faith—crosses, religious plaques, manger scenes and school prayers. More so, a movement to remove the phrase "In God we Trust" from America's coins is gaining popularity.

Priorities Checked. September 11 changed how Americans lived. Never again will they step into the mall, subways, airplanes and streets in a secured fashion.

CNN newscaster Judy Woodruff admitted on television: *"Even if you don't believe in God, at times like this you want to reach out to a higher being for salvation."*

Saint Augustine believes anxiety has its use—*"It stimulates us to seek with keener longing for that security where peace is complete and unassailable."*

Fear and anxiety make us reflect . . . upon the sad truth that oftentimes, prosperity loosens our grip from understanding our priorities.

The Pilgrims paid a big price to set up a Bible-founded civilization. The Scriptures and its followers made the United States great and powerful. But the priority that ruled their lives was not greatness or power —but GOD'S GLORY and the GOSPEL'S advancement.

How this great nation faced its worse-than-Pearl Harbor bombing is admirable. The generosity, bravery and heroism of both people and leadership were simply phenomenal. Had such crisis happened in our country, we would have collapsed in our spirits. But to a country with roots, America with "a built-in sense of righteousness" was prepared to face such tragedy.

America is now learning to prioritize according to its foundations of three hundred eighty-one years ago.

But the September 11 tragedy is also for the Philippines, a young country still building roots of godliness and righteousness. Some things are too important to miss . . . many of them are not material. Many of them are great opportunities for learning, which comes best when the humbling task of suffering does its work in our hearts, revealing to us ourselves, and ***having our priorities checked.***

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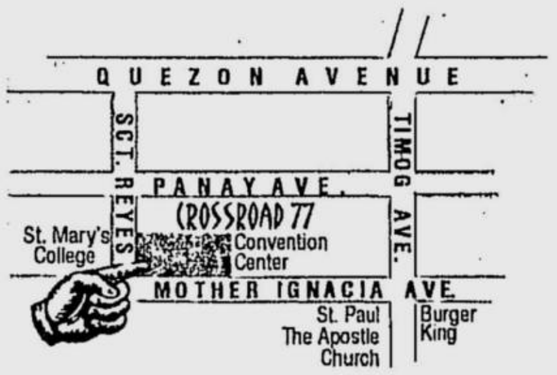

The first winner of the TV quiz show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," reveals why love of trivia isn't a trivial pursuit at all

How to Win a Million (almost) Without Trying

ALL HER LIFE, SHE HAS DREAMT OF THIS MOMENT.

AS AMELITA LOPEZ-FORBES BLINKED AT THE KLIEG LIGHTS ON THE SET OF "WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE," SHE REMEMBERED HOW SHE'D FRITTER AWAY THE HOURS ANSWERING TRIVIA QUIZZES IN MAGAZINES AND WATCHING TV QUIZ SHOWS, ALL THE WHILE PRESSING A BUZZER IN HER HEAD AS SHE TRIED TO BEAT THE CONTESTANTS TO THE RIGHT ANSWER.

"I guess I've always been very competitive," laughs this Communications Arts professor at the De La Salle University who became the top-rating show's first local millionaire. Her biggest regret, she reveals, was not getting a chance to join the "Battle of the Brains" on noontime TV. "I was already out of college by then," she adds.

Fortunately, a more recent quiz show gave her a chance to join TV contenders online. "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," a certified global success with local editions in 40 countries, quickly became a favorite in the Forbes household. "Hey, you're smarter than those contestants," teased her Australian husband Jack whom she met through the internet chat room in 1996 and married last year.

Buoyed by such encouragement, Forbes immediately dialed the "Millionaire" hotline when the show hit local shores a year ago. Callers to 1-908-1-000000 pay P10 a minute to give their names and preferred date of taping to the recorded voice of "Millionaire" host Christopher de Leon. "I started calling in November and my name came up in March," says Forbes. "I guess it helps if you cluster your calls around the same taping date," she adds.

Jovial by nature, this Fulbright scholar on Media Studies never had second thoughts about appearing on a show that has an avid *masa* following. "I don't take myself too seriously," she giggles. Besides, she adds, she could always chalk up the experience as participatory research and use it for her broadcast classes. The prize money isn't bad, either.

Apparently, thousands of viewers share the same sentiment and has since kept PLDT in business to get on the show which airs five times a week over IBC-13. Alas, a computer trims the 10,000 callers per episode to a more manageable 100. To chisel this hundred to the final 10, contestants are asked really tough questions, such as "How many hectares of land does Clark Air Base occupy?" In Forbes' case, the 100 semi-finalists were asked how many islands Indonesia has. "You have to guess and the 10 contestants who come closest to the correct answer become finalists."

Betoy Johnson

"Game!" is how students describe professor Amelita Forbes

Finalists are contacted by phone, she recalls. "They only try twice so you have to make sure you're available when they call," adds this former UP professor. Billeted overnight at the Traders Hotel Manila where they are briefed on contest rules, the group is ferried early the next day to the Parañaque studio of Viva TV, the local franchise holder of the "Millionaire" show. By this time, the show's staff would have contacted the five lifelines given by each finalist. "When I took the hot seat, I was given a slip of paper with the names of two of my lifelines," recalls Forbes. It turns out her three other friends were not available.

To determine who among the 10 finalists will get a stab at the million-peso pot, host De Leon throws a giveaway question, like putting a list in alphabetical, numerical or chronological order. "I always thought it was easy," recalls Forbes. "But the computer or your nerves can betray you." For some reason, she recounts, her computer locked and she couldn't feed in her answer. "I lost in the fastest-finger draw," she wailed.

Undaunted, she tried again in June this year. After 10 calls, she found herself retracing her March escapade, except this time, she managed to get to the hot seat. "It was good enough for me," she says. Luck was immediately on her side. "Being a broadcast professor, I'm used to a studio set-up so I wasn't nervous," says Forbes.

But while host De Leon can be very helpful and supportive and "apparently wants the contestants to win big," the entire experience can be unnerving, Forbes admits. "For one thing, you never know what question they'll be asking next." Seated under bright lights, contestants can barely make out the audience, much less their answers. "And there's the loud music which makes it impossible to have any coaching from the studio audience."

She breezed through the initial questions: Something you wear on your head: *beret.* What does MSG mean? *Monosodium glutamate.* Which uses a key? *A motor.* What does Gomburza stand for? *The three martyred priests.* ('Three blind mice' was another choice). Whose diary was found in Amsterdam after the war? *Anne Frank's, of course.*

As her winnings piled up past the P500,000 mark, Forbes could sense the audience getting excited. She briefly wondered if her husband, who was among the studio audience, was feeling the heat as well. But then came the million-peso question: "What is Bataan Matamis?"

The 40-year-old professor almost broke into a laugh. "*Naabutan ko pa iyan, eh,*" she had to tell the puzzled host who was used to much agonizing from contestants on the hot seat. The answer: a

The winning moment: Forbes with husband Jack and De Leon

brand of local cigarettes in the '60s. As the audience went wild, Forbes remembers thinking, "Okay, I have one million." The reality hasn't quite sunk in yet when De Leon followed up with a P2 million question: "What is the first name of that Sesame Street character, Mr. Snuffleupagus?" Forbes was stumped. Sesame Street was an '80s phenomenon in the country, and by then, she was teaching Mass Comm at UP. Should she guess and risk sliding back to the P100,000 level should her answer prove incorrect? It was an easy decision: she'd rather get the P1 million check. "I don't want to gamble so I don't make guesses," she says. "Some contestants say they'd rather take the risk because after all, they came to the show with nothing. But that's not true; they've already won something."

But Filipinos are gamblers at heart, Forbes observes. "People come up to me asking for tips on how to get their names chosen. One even spent P10,000 in phone calls just to get in. For them, it's very serious business and a relatively easy way to earn a million. *Hanapbuhay na talaga* (It's become a living)."

Back at the studios, the show ended without much fanfare except for the foot-stomping, throat-bursting cheers of the audience and host De Leon jumping up and down. "I guess the producers weren't prepared to have a millionaire at that time," says Forbes. But apparently, a production assistant backstage phoned the big boss, the flamboyant Vic del Rosario of Viva Productions. Del Rosario, of extravagant record launches and glittery movie premieres, decided on a re-take. "*Kelangan yan may* confetti, *may* flourish, all the works," the big man was supposed to have said, quotes Forbes. "*Sò balik kami,* this time, with feeling." The July 4 taping was actually shown on July 30, complete with the re-taped ending. "I got the Banco de Oro check a few days later, almost a month after the actual taping," says the show's first winner.

Ironically, says Forbes, she had planned on spending the tax-free million the first time she joined the show in March. This time, they were not quite sure what to do with the money. "My husband was kidding me and said, 'I guess I'll have to stick with you now that you have the money,' and I shot back, 'I'm going to spend it all on liposuction, except it might not be enough,'" she laughs. Until they've decided for sure, the money is earning interest in a bank.

Life for Forbes, the instant millionaire, would be different in the next few weeks. "People would point me out in the street, others would ask to pose with me or ask for tips on how to win," she re-

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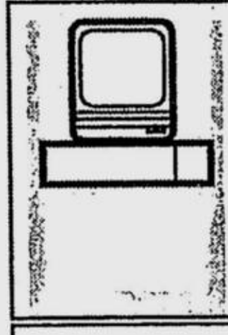

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MEMBER, PANA Truth in Advertising

Cover Story
by Eric S. Caruncho
photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

Christopher de Leon lands his latest starring role—as the popular quiz master on the hottest show on TV

The Million-Peso Man

LET'S GET QUIZZICAL.

PALMS ARE SWEATING PROFUSELY IN SPITE OF THE AIR-CONDITIONING INSIDE THE SPECIALLY-MADE STUDIO SET FOR THE HIT GAME SHOW "WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE," NONE MORE SO THAN JOEY'S. THE TWENTYSOMETHING INTERNET CAFÉ PROPRIETOR FROM BUTUAN JUST GOT LUCKY FOR P200,000, CORRECTLY GUESSING THAT THE LARGEST FLOWER IN THE WORLD IS NOT, IN FACT, THE ELEPHANT LILY BUT THE CORPSE LILY, NATIVE TO INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA AND SO NAMED BECAUSE ITS ODOR RESEMBLES THAT OF ROTTING FLESH. NOW YOU KNOW. THE QUESTION IS, CAN JOEY ANSWER THE NEXT FOUR QUESTIONS CORRECTLY AND RETURN TO BUTUAN WITH P2 MILLION? OR WILL HE CRASH AND BURN LIKE SO MANY HAVE BEFORE HIM?

The tension in the studio is palpable, and the only man whose palms are not sweating is Christopher de Leon. Unruffled in his sharp suit, not one hair out of place, the host of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" is clearly having fun as he reads the P300,000 question: what is the name of the largest island province of Equatorial Guinea? Is it Daredevil's Island, Easter Island, Edgar Allan Poe, or—De Leon can't resist a giggle—Fernando Po?

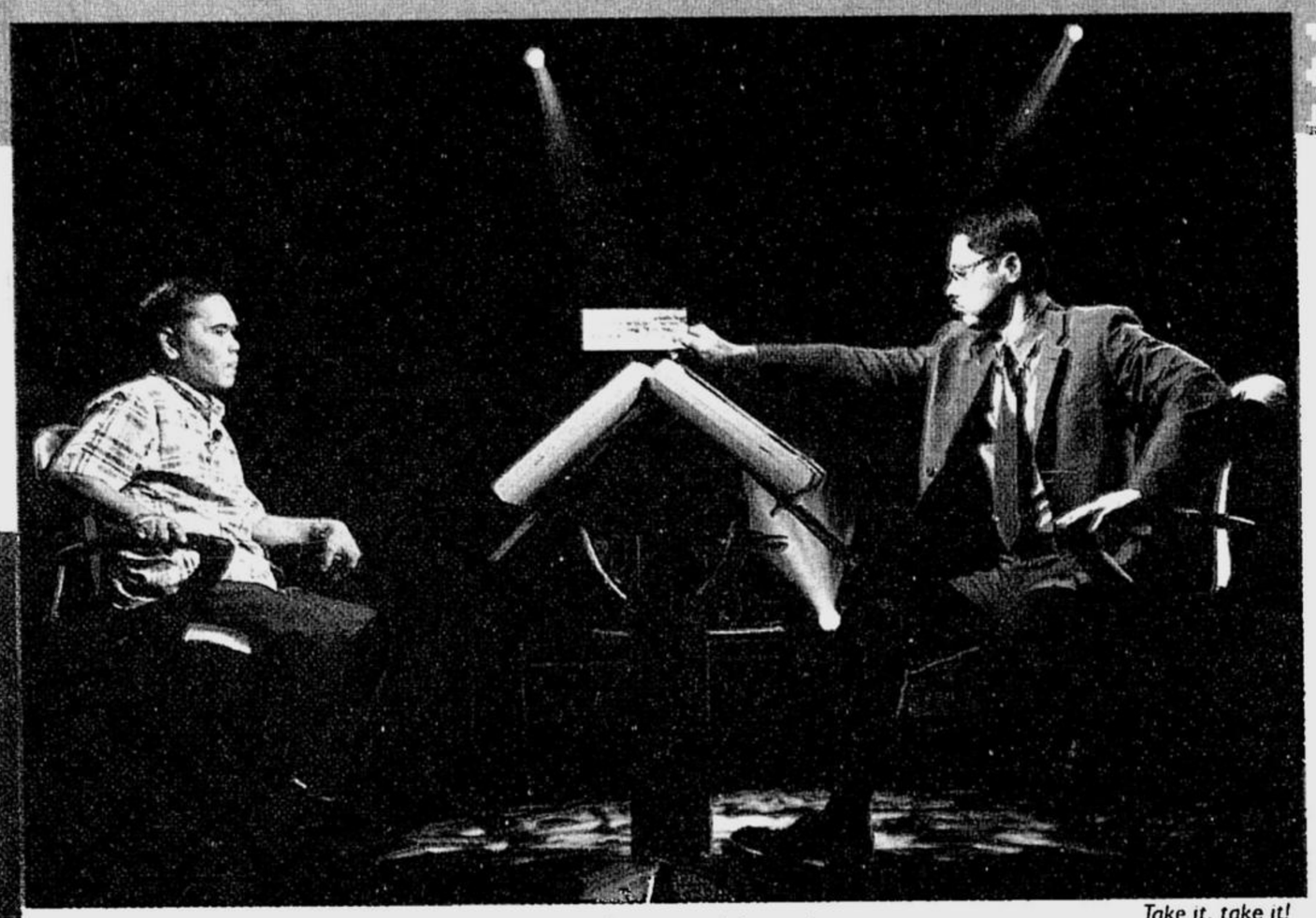
Joey pushes his luck and takes a wild guess: Edgar Allan Poe.

Some members of the audience are shaking their heads, no doubt mouthing a silent "D'oh!" as De Leon delivers his standard line: "Is that your final answer?" Joey sticks to his guns.

Even De Leon shakes his head in disbelief as the monitor in front of him lights up: the answer is – who would have guessed? – Fernando Po. At least Joey won't be going home with empty pockets: he gets to keep a guaranteed P100,000. Not bad for a day's work.

"You know why this show is successful around the world?" asks De Leon as he takes a short breather from the day-long taping. "The key is the contestant. I have to let the viewers see a glimpse of who the contestant is, his dreams, the drama of his life. When he uses his lifelines, or becomes a rollover contestant – this becomes more like a soap opera. *Makukuha kaya niya ang pera sa susunod na kabanata? Abangan natin*! And the drama builds up."

Cool dude in the hot seat



Take it, take it!
De Leon offers a way
out with a check

When WW2BAM started airing in November last year, Christopher de Leon seemed the least likely choice for a game show host. Could Al Pacino host "Blockbusters"? How about Harrison Ford in "Name That Tune"? Traditionally, local game shows were hosted either by comedians (Pepe Pimentel) or nerds (David Celdran). But De Leon specialized in intense, emotionally explosive characters in his film roles – the exact opposite of what a quiz show host ought to be: rational, dispassionate, cool. He wasn't sure he could do it.

"I knew this show – I watched it in the States," he recalls. "It's a big, big show and Regis Philbin is a big game show host. *Medyo natigilan ako. Kaya ko ba ito*?"

Originating in England, WW2BAM had expanded into a multi-million dollar global franchise, with successful spin-offs in 40 countries as diverse as the US, India and Malaysia. Viva TV, the producers of the show, had compiled a short list of candidates for the host slot, including broadcast journalist Che-che Lazaro, perennial beauty contest host Eddie Mercado, and even veteran actor Eddie Garcia. But Viva's capo di tutti capi, Vic del Rosario, liked De Leon and said so.

After giving it some thought, De Leon agreed, but not without some misgivings. In order to pull it off, he prepared for the role as he would any other film role: he studied the character he was to play.

"It took me several months to train for this," he admits. "I went to London for about a week to observe the show. I talked to David Briggs, the original producer, and he explained to me the mechanics of the show. I was also able to talk to Chris Tarrant, the London host. The British are usually seen as stiff, very reserved but Chris is a very nice guy. He's very compassionate and he makes the contestants feel at ease."

That would be the key: to make the contestants relax and get into the groove of the game.

The former Bad Banana also had to bone up. His usual reading fare, he says, consists of autobiographies, inspirational books and science fiction. Now he also reads the encyclopedia and the dictionary, apart from attending an intensive speech clinic to sharpen his pronunciation. As an exercise, he reads aloud everyday.

"Yes, it is a role," admits De Leon. "The difference is, here there's no emotion involved. Getting into a role for a movie is, for me, entirely different. It's more of creating a different self, a different persona. Here, you're just being yourself, but it's also a role."

"I'm more of an introvert, a loner," he continues. "But as a host I have to deal with a lot of people. I've been an actor for 25 years so I'm more at ease with acting. My first few weeks as host, I really had a hard time. The first few weeks were really bad, but now I'm more relaxed and I'm really having fun. I have a new family here."

As De Leon loosened up over the weeks and months, the show's ratings shot up. Initially offered to ABS-CBN and GMA, both of which turned it down, WW2BAM is now lording it over its 8 p.m. time slot as far as ratings are concerned. From three times a week, it is now aired five times a week. According to reports, De Leon is now the highest-paid game show host in the country. So successful is the show that Viva TV is now producing another game show, "The Weakest Link." Staying with the winning formula, its host is going to be another actor, Edu Manzano.

The success of WW2BAM has also given De Leon's career a second wind, as it were. "Third wind," he corrects. "This job is an answered prayer."

Television has often provided the seasoned actor with a breather from his more serious film roles. Projects such as the "Bad Bananas" variety show provided him the opportunity to try comedy and show his lighter side. But his last regular TV show, a sitcom, had been cancelled and De Leon – who is an active and longtime member of the Oasis of Love spiritual community – had been praying for a more stable program. Ask and you shall be given a hundredfold. Now WW2BAM's runaway success has raised De Leon's profile higher than it's ever been, specially with the current slump in the movie industry.

"When I go to Nueva Ecija, Cebu, they call me 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire,'" he laughs. "They don't call me 'Christopher' anymore. I just want to make one thing clear: it's not my money. I'm just the one giving it away."

A large part of the show's success, he adds, comes from the way the show's producers have been able to give the show a Pinoy angle.

"Regis Philbin is detached," observes De Leon. "He doesn't care if you get the money or not. *Suplado pa nga e*. And intimidating. *Dito lahat kakampi ng* contestant. I am very compassionate with the contestant. *Makakuha man lamang sana ng* P10,000. After P100,000 *ibang usapan na 'yan. Papatayin ako ng* producer. But I also have to keep a certain distance. I have to control the pacing of the game."

Part of the "acting" – which isn't really "acting" at all – is the host's body language. The only time the correct answers are given is after the contestant gives his final answer. But, says De Leon, there are times when he feels he knows the answer, and the audience is able to see it in his body language, as if he were barely able to keep himself from spilling the beans. He figures that if he were a contestant, he could probably make it to P100,000 –barring any stumpers like that one about Fernando Po.

"This job is still entertainment," says De Leon, who won his first acting award at age 18, for his film debut in "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang." Although he has won many more awards since, De Leon has never felt as fulfilled as he does now, as he enters middle age. His work as host of WW2BAM and his movie projects feed each other. At the same time, he remains active in the environmental conservation movement and in the Oasis of Love community. Perhaps, he reflects, life does begin at 40.

At the same time, his enthusiasm for the craft of acting, directing and making movies remains undiminished.

"I will continue to be an actor—that's my lifeline. *Nasa dugo ko na*. I think like Fernando Poe Jr. and Eddie Garcia, I will grow old and still be an actor."

One last question: do the winners ever give the host the traditional *balato*?

"*Wala*," laughs De Leon. "*Walang balato*."

And that's his final answer.

Pinoys Abroad

by Annie de Castro Gorra Rago
photographs by Benny C. Rago

From tilling the fields in Benguet, Lolita Lucando Haiduk worked her way up as a waitress, a domestic in Singapore, a nanny in Canada and finally a registered nurse. All it takes, she says, is hard work, determination and a steady faith in God

From Nanny to Nurse

FILIPINO-CANADIAN REGISTERED NURSE LOLITA LUCANDO HAIDUK SWABS THE PATIENT'S THROAT CLEAN AND GINGERLY PULLS OUT THE TUBE FROM THE HOLLOW OF THE PERSON'S THROAT. SHE REPLACES THE TUBE WITH A NEW ONE AND GENTLY INSERTS IT BACK INTO THE PATIENT'S AIR PASSAGE. TAKING CARE OF PATIENTS AT THE RESPIRATORY UNIT OF GEORGE PEARSON CENTRE IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, DEMANDS A LOT OF PATIENCE FROM NURSES. MOST OF THE PATIENTS—SOME OF THEM VICTIMS OF VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS, OTHERS BORN WITH GENETIC ILLNESSES OR MUSCLE WEAKNESS—ARE UNABLE TO MOVE THEIR BODY PARTS. THEY CANNOT DO ORDINARY TASKS SUCH AS FEEDING THEMSELVES OR SCRATCHING THE ITCH AT THE TIP OF THEIR NOSE.

What makes the story of Lolita, 39 stand out was her ability to rise above her station in life

"I go out of my way to accommodate them," says Lolita. She's careful, too, with what she says lest she hurts their feelings, because as she says, "Life is a cycle." One moment you can be on top and the next, you can be that person lying on a hospital bed.

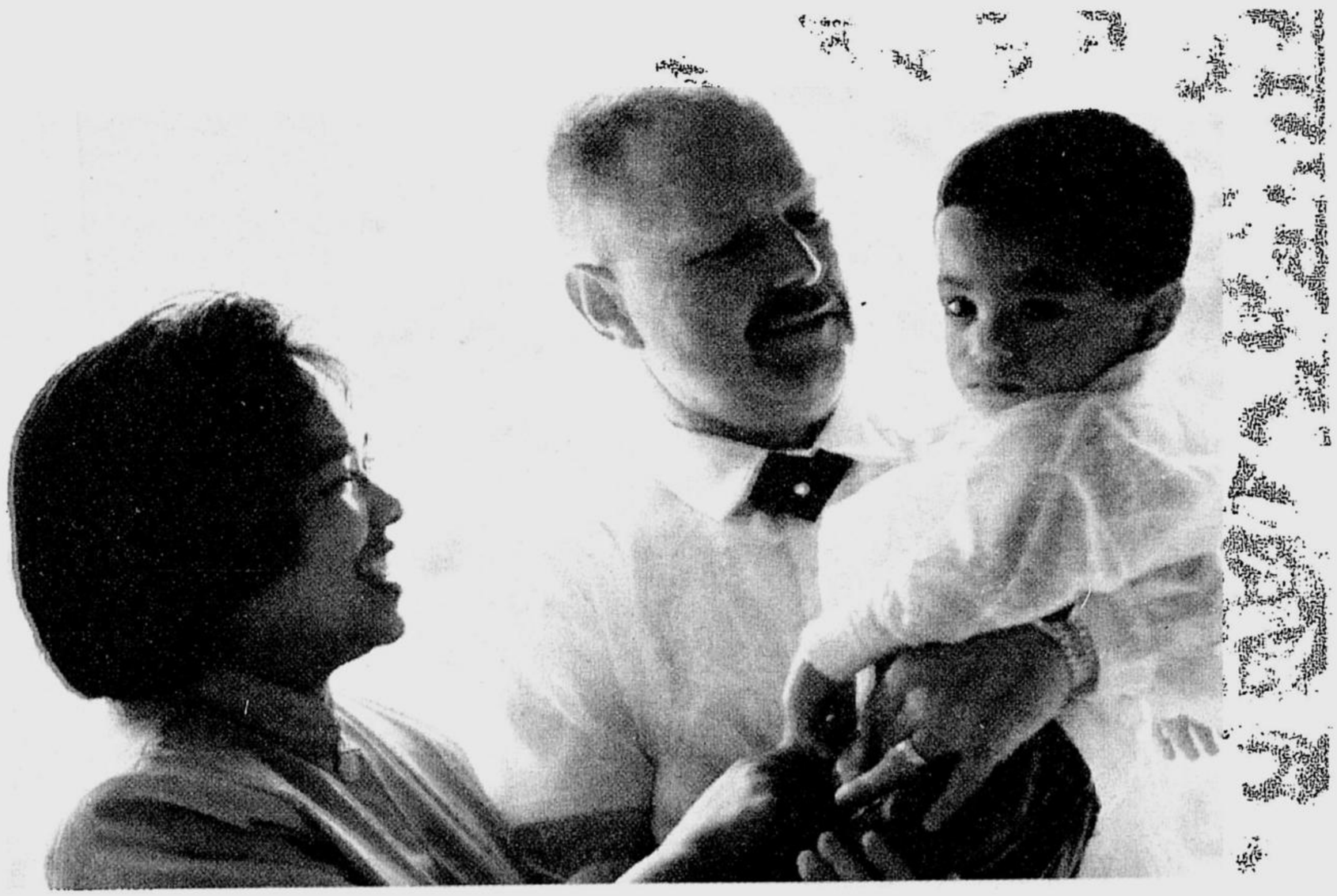
Lolita knows firsthand about life's highs and lows. Her lows were long: tilling her family's farm in Santo Tomas, Benguet, to help feed the family and pay her education; serving food in an obscure restaurant in Baguio; cleaning houses and washing clothes in Singapore, and working as a nanny in Vancouver. Only recently has she started enjoying the high point in her life: being a registered nurse in British Columbia.

British Columbia, a western province of Canada, is one of the favored sites among Filipino immigrants. They came to the province in three waves: the professionals in the '60s, sponsored immigrants in the '70s, and nannies, better known as caregivers, through the '80s and '90s. The wave of caregivers to Canada crested when the country implemented its Live-In Caregiver Program. Domestic helpers, who suffered harsh treatment in Singapore and Hong Kong, saw the chance to work in a country that will respect their rights and give them the opportunity to become productive citizens. Lolita was one of them. She migrated from Singapore to Vancouver in March, 1989. For three years, she worked as a live-in caregiver in this western province before she decided to retool her skills by going to school and studying nursing.

What makes the story of Lolita, 39, stand out was her ability to rise above her station in life. Though the Live-In Caregiver Program opens doors in Canada, many immigrants find it hard to break out. The odds are stacked against them: isolation, prejudice, the stigma of being a domestic, and the risk of losing their competitive marketplace skills after being housebound for many years. On top of this, according to the Martin Spigelman Research conducted last year among the Filipino community in British Columbia, live-in caregivers are burdened with personal issues, among them debts acquired as part of their emigration process.

Lolita beat these odds. "I had a goal; I wanted to do something better," she says. She built her goal on her best assets: a steady faith in God as well as determination. "You have to be extra strong and determined to make it," says Carmen Handinero, a community settlement counselor who has dealt with a number of caregivers in the province.

Lolita agrees, and adds, "You need God, too." Sitting at the edge of her couch in the living room of her CDN $385,000 home in Burnaby, which she shares with her mother-in-law, German-Canadian husband Andre and three-year-old son Brandon Paul,



A good life: with husband Andre and son Brandon Paul

Where the heart is: Lolita and Andre in the kitchen of their Burnaby home

Lolita is a testimony to God's power to bring a person farther than she can expect or imagine. Five feet tall and weighing 130 lbs., she is virtually dwarfed by the vaulted ceiling of her living room and the bay windows that give a feeling of endless space and which look out to a front yard vibrant with flowers. Her home is a far cry from the rain-soaked house that she used to live in in Santo Tomas, or her bedroom in Singapore which was the size of her present bathroom. My bed, then, she laughs, was as small as my bathtub now. But, again, life is a cycle. "Do you remember what the Bible says about the first being last and the last being first?" she quotes throughout the interview.

Majority of the farmers in the Philippines would fall under the "last" category in life. Although Lolita's family was quite landed—their property in Santo Tomas spans the peak of the mountain to its base—the land did not provide a stable income. The size of the harvest depended on the weather and the price of fertilizers. "During bad times, it could be difficult," says Lolita. Her brothers left school to work in the mines. Lolita, number eight in a family of 10, tilled the fields during weekends. She would travel the one-hour trip from Baguio, where she went to school, to her hometown to help the family in the farm.

But neither hard work nor education seemed to open possibilities for her in the Philippines. Farming was not making their life better. Her nutrition and dietetics diploma from the University of Baguio did not land her a job in her field. Instead, she ended up as a waitress in an unknown restaurant in Baguio. In 1985, with her options in the Philippines closing, Lolita, a nervous 23-year-old, stepped into the Manila International Airport enroute to Singapore. She was promised a job as a governess. The job turned out to be that of a domestic helper.

Her routine was long: wake up at 5:30 a.m. and rest only after the family is settled, usually around 10 p.m. She had no days off. Her employer could be quite harsh. On her payday, he went around the house swiping his finger on the furniture to check how well she dusted. She had to weep before he forked over her check. The environment could break down even the most determined. At times, the thought "Why am I washing laundry when I have a college degree?" would darken her day. On other days, she felt like packing up and flying home. A feeling of not knowing how things will go, whether things will get better, became overwhelming. Faced with uncertainty, Lolita, in her windowless bedroom, turned to the power who could make a difference in her life. "Lord, what shall I do?" she pleaded.

His answer led her to Canada. On March 3, 1989, as the snow on the ground was melting and the Vancouver winter was giving way to spring, Lolita stepped out of the airport into a new life. Although she continued working as a caregiver, she felt free. She started work at 6 a.m. and stopped at 5 p.m.; she had weekends off. And there was hope. After two years of full-time, live-in employment, she could apply for landed immigrant status and, a couple of years later, qualify for Canadian citizenship.

When she got her open visa in 1991, she promptly got out of housebound labor to work as a home support employee, going from one home to another, cooking, shopping, and caring for the elderly. She realized after a year that she could do better. While working, she went back to school to take up long-term care aide, finishing at the top of her class. Inspired by this success, she decided to take another step forward: studying to be a registered nurse.

The road to this goal, just like the other roads that Lolita took, was rough. "My hair started to grow gray." Her pitfall, to her surprise, was English. "I was good in English back home," she says, but when she went to school in Vancouver, she could hardly pass. "When I read my paper and asked my husband Andre to read (it), it seemed right. When my teacher read it, it was wrong—wrong organization."

"I really felt for her," says Andre, who saw how his wife struggled to pass the course.

Lolita was not alone in this struggle; a great number of Filipinos share her difficulty with the English language. "There are those who cannot articulate," says Handinero. Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell, a former city planner in one of the progressive cities in B.C. who now works as a community facilitator and consultant, has a similar observation: "We don't have a big language problem, but our English can sometimes be heavily accented and halting."

Lolita took comfort in the fact that she was not the only one in class having problems with the language. Her perseverance paid off. In April, 1998, she received her diploma; one month after, in June, she took her licensure exam. In August, she received notice by mail that she had passed the exam and is now a registered nurse in British Columbia. "I jumped with joy."

Looking back to what she's gone through, Lolita feels relieved to be where she is at present. "It pays to work hard. It pays to have perseverance," she says, walking over to her kitchen which looks out to a backyard green with trees and dotted with roses and hydrangeas. "I still identify with (caregivers). At work, I help them out and tell them that if I can do it (become a nurse), so can they." The encouragement comes from knowing how it felt to be at the bottom, says Lolita, adding that the experience taught her humility and respect for all. "God has shown me not to put down other people." The people whom you think would not amount to anything, would be those who would work hard and make it, she notes.

Now that she has reached her initial goal, Lolita talks about stretching her boundaries by going into further training. "I've been working in a respiratory unit, but I want to go into nephrology, study about kidneys, do dialysis," she says. She plans to apply at Vancouver General Hospital.

Indeed, this former waitress, domestic and caregiver is going places—proof that those who are last can, under God's wing, finish first.

Annie de Castro Gorra Rago writes from Vancouver, British Columbia. She can be reached at brag2000@aol.com.

The Word

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

The Persistence of God

Like the persistent widow in the parable, God keeps pounding on the door of our cold hearts through our own thoughts, feelings, memories and reactions. At some point, we can no longer stand God's importuning and give in to His amazing grace

TO BE PERSISTENT MEANS TO BE *MAKULIT*, REPETITIOUS, CONSISTENT, AND SOMETIMES EVEN OBNOXIOUSLY COERCIVE—LIKE CHILDREN WHO CRY AND CRY FOR HOURS UNTIL YOU PICK THEM UP AND SILENCE THEM WITH AN ICE CREAM CONE.

There are also persistent salesmen, suitors, beggars, bill collectors and favor-seekers.

An example of a persistent favor-seeker is the poor widow in our Gospel Parable today (Lk 18:1-8). Because of her *makulit*, repetitious, consistent and pestering request for "justice," even the unjust and heartless judge had to give in to her persistent prayer—to silence her.

Persistent and unceasing prayer seems to be the faith-challenge of the Gospel Parable for us today. Not that we are being advised to manipulate God to grant us whatever we want through persistent and childish praying.

Rather, The Word today invites us to believe in a sensible and listening God who can "do great things for us because he is mighty and holy is His name" (Lk 1:19-20). But He will do it according to His wisdom in His own sweet time. But we must be prepared to wait humbly in faith and trust because His faithfulness will never fail.

Sometimes, however, there is a switching of roles. We play the role of the cold-hearted judge, and God takes the role of the persistent widow. Thomas Keating, Trappist monk, reflects: "Like the persistent widow, God keeps pounding on the door of our cold, cold hearts day after day. And like the unjust judge, we try to put her off. But this persistent God always returns with a vengeance, and approaches us all day long, coming to meet us morning, noon and night through people and events and through our own thoughts, feelings, memories and reactions. Until one day, we finally accept our persistent God not because we are just and righteous, but because, at some point like the unjust judge, we cannot anymore stand the importuning of God's amazing grace, and we give in, saying, 'Okay, okay, my God, take my life. I am in your hands!'"

The Persistence of Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Echoing the Old Testament prophets led by Amos who, in the middle of the 8th century BC, lamented and condemned the sins of the people (social injustice, corruption, shallow religion, etc.), and warned them of impending destruction, Mary, the mother of Jesus, has been appearing in the most unlikely places in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas pleading persistently for nations, governments, churches, believers and unbelievers to please come back to God, and together fight the evils in the world today. Otherwise, she said, the world would be distressed with afflictions as she warned in Rue de Bac (Paris). At La Sallete in France, and Akita, Japan, Mary also warned that the "seasons will be altered ... there will be bloody wars and famines, plagues and infectious diseases, fire will fall from the sky ... "I repeat," she said persistently, "please return to my Son before it is too late."

First Christmas Wake-Up Call

The "Poor Reaching Out to the Poor" is what the Center for Migrant Youth intends to become this Christmas 2001. Although we are tempted to beg for alms to meet our own needs at the Center, we have also listened to the Spirit in our hearts speaking to us about "the other poor" in our neighborhood around Cordillera Street who are much more in need than we are. The street people, market beggars, *kariton* and squatter families, dislocated released prisoners and mental patients bereft of caring relatives who come to us every Saturday to be fed and ministered to, are "the other poor" the CMY feels passionately responsible for. Please help the poor reaching out to the poor. We want to be able to share with them a portion of your Christmas gifts to us without getting too scared of ending up poorer than those pantry mice. For your guidance, here are some of the things we need:

Survival needs: rice, sugar, milk, coffee, noodles, canned foods, toothpaste, Safeguard

Christmas specials: a piece of ham, a piece of cheese, a piece of cake, a piece of bread, or a piece of something from your Christmas table

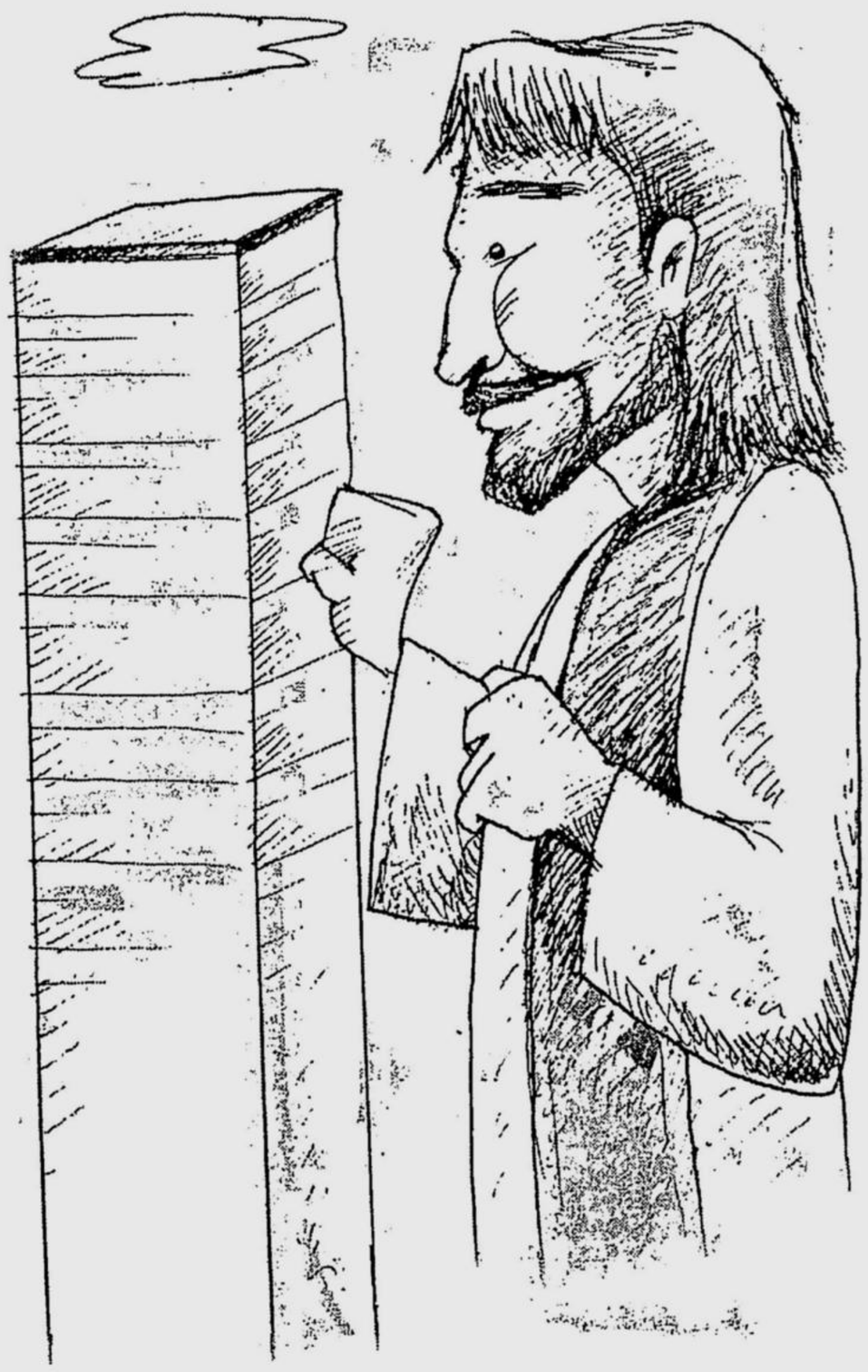


Illustration by STEPH BRAVO

Recyclables: usable clothes, usable electric fans, usable toys for children, usable school and office supplies

This is my first wake-up call. Four more calls in my November and December columns are forthcoming. I am like a persistent Franciscan mendicant. May peace prevail on earth—beginning with us.

From hard rock to easy listening? Have Wolfgang's Basti Artadi and Razorback's Dave Aguirre gone off their rockers?

A Serving of Brain Salad

RUST NEVER DIES, BUT EVEN ROCKERS GROW OLD. THE BYRDS' "SWEETHEART OF THE RODEO" AND THE DEAD'S "WORKINGMAN'S DEAD" SHOWED HOW EVEN THESE SEMINAL ROCKERS HAVE SOUGHT NEW MUSICAL DIRECTIONS, CRAFTING A SOUND THAT BOTH A RECOVERING HIPPIE AND A MIDDLE-AGED FARM HAND CAN APPRECIATE.

The new millennium saw cracklings of a parallel occurrence in the local music scene. Quite a few acts out there attempt to shed their previous genre and move on to a more mature, original phase. Maybe because they've played with rock's basics— guitar, bass, drum, and a lot of yelping— and not with studio flash and gloss, Wolfgang and Razorback became the best candidates for venturing towards a new musical direction.

In a project called Brain Salad, Wolfgang vocalist (and former Broadway-wannabe and Burt Bacharach enthusiast) Basti Artadi collaborates with returning Razorback guitar god Dave Aguirre.

The concept, not surprisingly, was a product of beer drinking sessions between the two who have long wanted to work together but couldn't find the perfect angle for an album. It couldn't just be the typical, straightforward, angst-ridden hard rock that fans have come to expect from both groups. It had to be different.

"It must be something we wouldn't have been able to do with Wolfgang and Razorback," says Artadi. Adds Aguirre, "It's not too intense, no shouting. It was done with that easy listening vibe and it should be appreciated with that easy listening vibe. Like I said, it's all about the love, baby."

Those expecting to hear a logical outcome of Razorback plus Wolfgang (Razorwolf? Wolfback?) as being twice the mosh pit-inducing frenzy of previous albums like "Star" and "Serve in Silence," will be let down. True, Brain Salad will cater to fanatics who have stage-dived and head-banged at the concert and want more of Artadi's incessant stretch wailing and Dave's deft guitar playing. But the sounds are toned down just a bit to relax the eardrums (If Wolfgang/Razorback's music rates a "10" sonically, Brain Salad is more of a "6" or "7").

Best yet for those who previously found the music to be too hard-edged and unappealing, Brain Salad offers them a chance to listen to contemporary Pinoy rock aesthetic without the guitar-screeching feedback and drum-pounding backdrop. This is rock at its roots, ground zero, raw and bluesy; a chance to show that these guys can rock without hiding behind sheer volume and rage.

For those who think that this is an offshoot of Wolfgang's highly popular "Acoustica" project, Artadi counters, "Actually, we were already working on it even before the Brain Salad project." Aguirre adds: "We were already writing songs and thinking about the whole thing when came this 'Acoustica' and we said, '*Uy! Eksakto*!'"

Chewing on ideas: (L-R) bassist Louie Talan, drummer Brian Velasco, guitarist Dave Aguirre and vocalist Artadi

Basti Artadi finds a different voice: "Not too intense, no shouting"

Taking a relaxed approach to recording and hitting their creative stride, the two started production in November 2000, but wrapped up recording only in May this year.

"The songs are all relaxed, man," says Artadi. "Because when we were writing them, we were not under any form of pressure. We were writing and recording them at our own pace. We wrote the songs on an acoustic guitar, then added the band after the songs. That was a different approach. We also worked with other musicians who brought in different flavors to everything."

Aside from Artadi and Aguirre, Brain Salad also features familiar faces in the Pinoy music scene. Keeping it all in the family, the project's band includes Razorback bassist Louie Talan and drummer Brian Velasco as well as Wolfgang bandmates Manuel Legarda and Wolf Gemora, Razorback vocalist Kevin Roy, guitarist Tirso Ripoll, and original drummer Miguel Ortigas.

Guest appearances include guitar legend Jun Lopito, Polyester keyboardist Martin Jamora, ex-Kulay vocalist Radha Tinsay (nee Cuadrado), Spy percussionist Paul Zialcita, Blue Rats sax player Joe Ingarra, and Makiling Ensemble violinist Diwa de Leon.

The first track on Brain Salad and current single "Concept Human" begins, not with heavy-handed Metallica-style pyrotechnics, but with sparse, funky beats befitting Artadi's lament on our overdependence on technology. The lyrics go, "Could this be the grand design how things were meant to be/ Is really living such a crime we would trade it all for machinery?

In retrospect, the softer, bluesy Brain Salad doesn't exactly signal the new styles of both Wolfgang and Razorback. These guys still want to rock and to send the masses into sweaty, frothy hysterics in the future. Rather, like a precocious kid who's good at one thing, gets slightly bored with it and wants to try something new, Brain Salad is exploring ideas previously ignored by both the Razorback and Wolfgang, but created in a relaxed, fruitful environment among close friends without the pressure to sell.

"Brain Salad" was produced by Sony Music and is available in CDs and cassettes.

The Artist Abroad

by Luis H. Francia

A Visit to Ground Zero

Being in the site of the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history posed questions, the questions of survivors of war madness, megalomania and religious fanaticism everywhere. How will we ever learn to live together? Why is the thirst for death so great?

THE SITE OF THE WORST TERRORIST ATTACK IN U.S. HISTORY, WHERE APPROXIMATELY 6,000 INNOCENT PEOPLE DIED, IS NOW REFERRED TO AS GROUND ZERO, A CATCHY BUT PROBLEMATIC NAME, EVOKING THE NUCLEAR BOMBINGS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, STILL THE ONLY (AND HOPEFULLY THE LAST) TWO CITIES IN HISTORY TO BE A-BOMBED. IN TERMS OF NUMBERS KILLED, THE DESTRUCTION WREAKED BY THE U.S. ON THE TWO JAPANESE CITIES RESULTED IN ABOUT 200,000 KILLED, WOUNDED OR MISSING, MOST OF THEM CIVILIANS. DURING THE VIETNAM WAR (WHICH THE VIETNAMESE REFER TO AS THE AMERICAN WAR), 500 POUNDS OF EXPLOSIVES FOR EVERY VIETNAMESE MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD WERE DROPPED ON A COUNTRY WITH WHICH AMERICA WAS NOT OFFICIALLY AT WAR. SINCE 1991 U.S.-LED SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ HAVE MEANT MALNUTRITION, SEVERE ILLNESS, EVEN DEATHS FOR HALF A MILLION CHILDREN, YET SADDAM HUSSEIN REMAINS IN POWER.

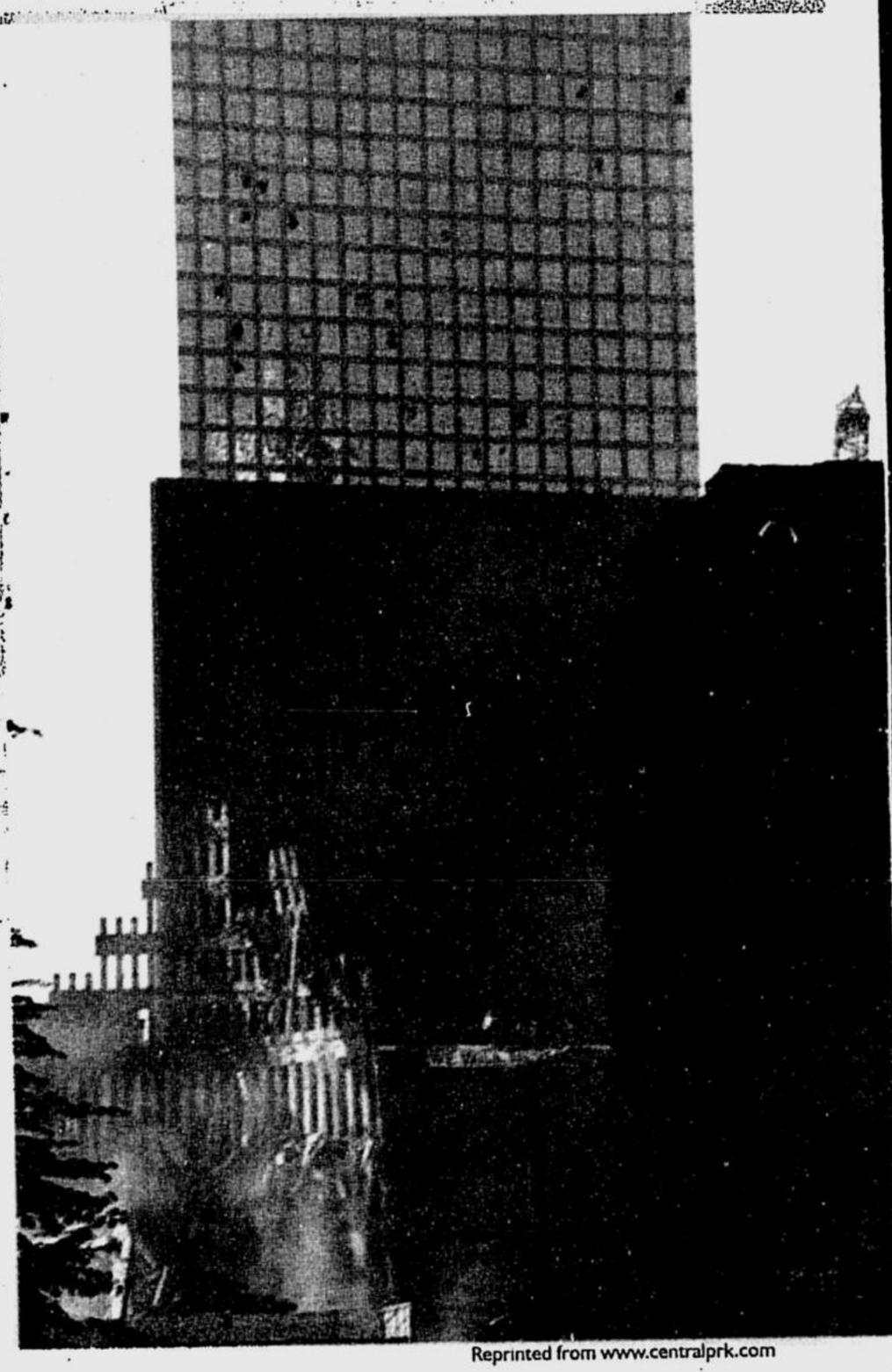
I bring up these facts (of which there are quite a few) to point to a larger context: the targeting of noncombatants, a crime against humanity, has always been a favorite tool of terrorism, whether sponsored by a state or a group of fanatics. Seen in this light, the U.S. is as guilty as any previous empire builder. Let us mourn not just the victims of September 11 but all victims of terrorism. Ground Zero can also be thought of as alluding to the international ripple effects of the deadly assaults. Whether we like it or not, what is local in the U.S. is often global. And so stock markets across the planet dipped dangerously low, the manhunt for Osama bin Laden and his roving band drew in countries as diverse as Pakistan and Germany, the threat of war was characterized by the cowboy-in-chief rather grandiosely as civilization defending itself, even if, going by his ominous phrase "Either you are with us or against us," that may mean the indiscriminate killing (yet again!) of noncombatants.

Wanting to see for ourselves, my wife and I, along with a friend, finally trekked down to Ground Zero. We found it bizarre, surreal, and yet strangely calming. The area has been cordoned off for several blocks, though at certain intersections the rubble, the giant cranes, and buildings immediately around GZ are clearly visible. On Liberty and Broadway the oddly graceful remnant of one of the towers' facades looms over debris that is several stories deep and high. Steel beams are said to have plunged like daggers through the earth (whose letters spell "heart"), coming to rest in subway tunnels. Soot and ash coat buildings, many with their windows blown out. The smell of burning and of death linger as though, as someone put it, it were the smell "of unsettled souls." People in the area fear breathing in asbestos and atomized human particles. Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return.

Rescuers, policemen, firefighters, construction workers, truckers, medics, army guardsmen—they are the real, mostly working-class heroes in this tragedy, with many of the first wave dying once the towers collapsed. There remain the gargantuan tasks of clearing the tons of rubble away, restoring the lines of communication and everyday utility, and bringing out bodies (or remains of bodies). At one intersection near City Hall, a troop of bagpipers, with their keening, haunting tunes, marched towards us, at once resplendent and fierce in their kilts and tartans. Was this a regular exorcism? No matter; we were glad and moved by their passage.

We remarked on the road signs pointing the way to "WTC." One huge ad three blocks from Ground Zero resonated with chilling irony: "A Hit Off Broadway!" Humvees and army trucks rumbled through as vendors hawked miniature flags, hats with the flag design, T-shirts emblazoned with patriotic slogans, postcards that showed the twin towers, and even photographs of the rubble. If patriotism is the refuge of scoundrels, it is also a gold mine for entrepreneurs. The biggest of course are the arms merchants, and the largest arms merchant in the world is good ol' USA.

The orderly crowd of sightseers was moved along by uniformed men. I thought, we could be museum goers lined up for a really hot exhibition. That was followed by another thought, that we were mourners come to pay our respects. Whom were we paying our respects to? Whom were we mourning? We were grieving not just for



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the murdered, but for ourselves, for manunkind (e.e. cummings's word) and its amazing capacity for greed and hate—terrible twins and mirror images to the equally amazing generosity and love that New Yorkers demonstrated in the wake of the vicious attacks. Cameras were pulled out, people posed, though I didn't hear any command to smile. A few wept, others talked in whispers. Only one man raised his voice in xenophobic anger, but people simply ignored him. Being near Ground Zero posed questions, the questions of survivors of war madness, megalomania and religious fanaticism everywhere. How will we ever learn to live together? Why is the thirst for death so great?

Imagine, as John Lennon wrote, a world without country or religion, no heaven or hell, just "people living for today." Obsessed with the afterlife, we forget where we are, who we are, and how humanity and kindness might in the end be the only true universal religion.

TWISTS...from page 3

who luckily won his very first watch and rubber shoes is now a spinner working at a major TV station. A future producer received his very first bed from the program.

But the seeds that Jeanne is planting now are more spiritual in nature. Aside from giving her testimonies and teaching seminars, she is under contract with Viva Recording to produce a series of gospel albums. The best-selling "The Servant of the Lord" series has already rated a multiple platinum hit and the perennial favorite "I Love You, Lord" a multiple diamond. Popular artists like Zsa Zsa Padilla and Jaya belt out inspirationals ("Morning Has Broken"), modern adaptations of old church songs ("Ama Namin") and the Top 40 equivalent of American gospel ("Give Thanks").

What makes these albums remarkable is that both committed believers from the Catholic and evangelical (or born-again) folds are now singing on the same side. The Christian movement certainly has come a long way from the vicious religious sniping in the early 1980s. Jeanne herself was a victim of these hostilities; perceived as a born-again devotee who "went back" to the Catholic faith, some fundamentalist circles still ban her from their fellowship, concerned that she might further confuse ex-Catholics and lead them astray.

"I am *Catolico serado*," she clears the record once and for all. "But I have friends among the leaders of the Protestants who are my prayer partners now and who respect my beliefs."

Many of these friends were responsible for introducing her to Bible study. That's why she felt it difficult to turn away from important Catholic tenets that contradicted the Protestant teachings. A case in point is Mary: Catholics revere her as the Mother of God who can intercede in behalf of Jesus, while Protestants simply respect (and not worship) her as the human mother of Jesus.

"Now this is MY experience, OK?" she says, emphasizing its personal aspect. "At that time, the wars were really bad, with accusations here and there," Jeanne recalls. "I was getting tired of it. My left eye was also sick with these spots that made it impossible to wear contact lens. I specifically asked Mary to heal my left eye." A Catholic lady who had a healing ministry using the rosary prayed for her, and the eye was cured. It was enough of a sign for Jeanne.

So was the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center, albeit a different one, "which shook her to very core." As of press time, Jeanne is packing her bags from the Philippines, her lifelong home, to join her family abroad, perhaps permanently. It is a new beginning into a different mission field.

Her message will be simple. "Our hope is in Jesus Christ. We know that whenever we fall or fail, we can call on the name of Jesus and ask the Holy Spirit to pick us up and bring us to the Father. We are God's beloved children."

A global economic crisis, a new kind of world war, and acts of terrorism hang heavily like dark shadows over everyone today. Apparently, Jeanne Young believes it will take more than a game show to lift such burden from our shoulders.

Poetry

Silverfish

I watched the insect romancing
My page: he was wingless and saddled
By the sureties of his birth—
Of needs that were dendrites
Wrapped around his mind—
Of an understanding
That was less dawn than twilight.

Should I destroy him or not
Was the question that
Badgered me: after all, am I
Not powerful and smarter?
Yet the insect danced
In circles
In loops and in tangents—and scrawled
His name with his piss
And dared me to disagree
As he ate away the fragile edge
Of Eco's yellowed verity.

Joe Bert G. Lazarte

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

SEEN...from page 7

calls. At the La Salle canteen, she would choose a dish and be met with a deadpan, "Is that your final choice?" from a canteen helper who fancies himself a "Millionaire" host. The calls for blowouts were relentless. "But I considered them merely as *lambing* and would just smile back," says the professor who confessed to treating only her closest colleagues at the La Salle Communication Arts department.

Fame definitely has its ups: being well-known for her TV plugs of the "Millionaire" show ("*Sumali na kayo*!") meant an easier time for her Australian husband when he renewed his visa. But it has also meant fears about property crimes: "My husband keeps reminding me to double lock our doors lest we suffer a break-in," says Forbes. But fame, she notes wryly, is a fleeting experience. "My 15 minutes of fame is up," she adds. Three weeks after her grand win and she's back to anonymity.

In retrospect, says Forbes, being lost in a crowd is a comfortable feeling, but sometimes her inner quiz show contestant just takes over. Next stop: "The Weakest Link."

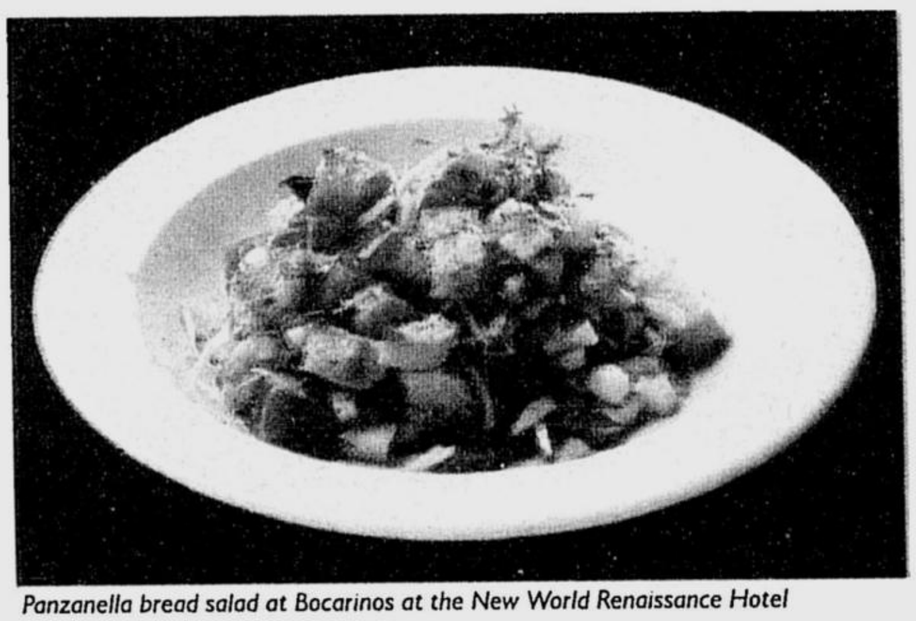
This Week

Art

Images of the Cordilleras, a solo exhibit by Willy Magtibay is ongoing at Silahis Arts and Artifacts, 3/F, Glorietta 4, Makati City, until Oct. 31.

Transmissions, an odd brew of paintings in oil and encaustic, and collages by Louie Cordero at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall until Oct. 29.

The Philippines and Spain: Memories of a Journey, a solo exhibit by Ginés Serran-Pagan until Oct. 27 at Galleria Duemila at the Art Center, 4/L, SM Megamall.



Panzanella bread salad at Bocarinos at the New World Renaissance Hotel

Silk and Brass: Highlights of the Datu Mastura Collection, an exhibit presenting two of the Islamic weaving cultures of the Southern Philippines—the Maguindanao and the Maranao, opens today and will run for three months at the National Museum, Agrifina Circle, Manila.

Pinto Art Gallery (1 Sierra Madre, Silangan Gardens, Grand Heights, Antipolo City) holds a series of shows in the Gallery's four main areas. Gallery I features Antonio Leaño's meditation pieces on canvas. Collages by Gemo Tapales are showcased in Gallery II. Experimental pieces in acrylic and paper by Mark Justiniani highlight the Gallery Shop area. Featured in the House area is Bestiary, Elmer Borlongan's recent works in pastel. The four exhibits will run until Nov. 15.

Cinema

Road to South, story of a retired Spanish revolutionary who was exiled in France during Franco's late years. Suddenly for some reason, he has to go back to his homeland. He will have to struggle again for his convictions, his dreams and illusions (French version with English subtitles), Oct. 31, 8 p.m. at Alliance Ondeo Auditorium, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City. For details, call 895-7441.

Food

Japan's Best, Saisaki's Best, the latest feature in the eat-all-you-can Saisaki Cookfest Buffet. Over 100 delectable Japanese specialties: the Teppanyaki, Agemono, Yakimono, Nimono, Sushi, Sashimi and more. Available at all branches in SM Megamall, Glorietta III, Alabang Town Center, Padre Faura, Pasay Road, West Avenue and Edsa. For inquiries, call 844-7568.

Holiday Inn Manila treats seafood lovers to a great **seafood dinner buffet** every Wednesday at the Café Coquilla. You can even take your pick on their catch of the day and feast on a wide selection of oysters, blue lip mussels, prawns and neck clams cooked the way you like it. For reservations, call 526-1212 ext. 2318.

Casa Armas celebrates a month-long **Tapas Fest.** Sample and savor an enticing selection of tapas and choose from three specially packaged set menus. For every set menu, there are complimentary glasses of red wine. Casa Armas is located at 132 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City. For reservations, call 897-3605.

Light Bistro highlights Asian flavors this **Oriental October.** Sample their Fried Tofu and Squid Balls, Crab Meat and Pork Rolls, Chinese Chicken Salad, Hainanese Chicken Rice, Korean Beef Barbecue, Grilled Country Style Ribs with Garlic *Kangkong*, then cap your dining experience with a cool and refreshing *Guinumis*. Light Bistro is located at 223 Katipunan Ave., QC. For inquiries, call 421-0640.

Italian food lovers need only to travel to Bocarinos at New World Renaissance Hotel to sample distinctive, authentic dishes from Italy's most celebrated regions—Tuscany, Rome, Florence, Milan and Bologna until Nov. 31. The **Italian Chic** creations are offered in a special a la carte menu. For reservations, call 811-6888 ext. 3318.

The vibrant cuisine of Cebu takes centerstage at the Café Plaza of The Westin Philippine Plaza until Oct. 31. An array of authentic **Cebuano dishes,** prepared by guest chefs from *Ki-namot sa Escario*, a dining landmark in Cebu, is available at the lunch and dinner buffet. For reservations, call 551-5555 ext. 1531.

Dunkin' Donuts Halloween Fancies, cute and delicious donut treats that come in three designs—Lady Pumpkin, Boo Boo Ghost and Lady Witch for only P15 available at participating outlets nationwide until Nov. 4.

Atbp

The Amazing Race, a new adventure reality series on cable channel AXN, premieres Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. Eleven teams of two people, each with a pre-existing relationship, compete in a series of mental and physical tasks, before learning their next destination. Restricted plane travel and strict budgets will add to the pressure as teams are forced to rely on wit and ingenuity. Teams farthest behind will be eliminated as the race progresses, and the first team to arrive at the final destination—unknown as yet—wins the grand prize of US$1 million.

Creative writing workshops: Writing for magazines/feature writing (Nov. 3); Fiction writing (Nov. 4) at Earthlite, 4/F, COD Dept. Store Building, Cubao, QC. For details, call 417-1521 or 0919-7405199.

Aseminar on Soul Mates and Twin Flames by Summit Lighthouse Study Group of the Philippines is scheduled on Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m. at No. 1 Gen. Antonio corner Gen. Lim Sts., San Antonio Village, Pasig City. For details, call 631-4052.

P100 creative writing workshop from Pinoywriters.com and Goodwill Bookstore: Writing the Personal Experience Article, Nov. 3, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. For details, call Roland at 752-2737 or e-mail roland@electromedia.ph.

The Blue Eagles Gymnastics Academy offers **gymnastics classes** for boys and girls at the Ateneo de Manila High School covered court, Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 411-9054 or 920-8672.

Clean Body Clean Mind Health and Fitness Center and the Defense Specialists present all new programs and classes for those interested in improving their **fitness, self-defense skills and martial arts training:** Impact Aerobox Workout (open for group scheduling); Stretching for Stress Relief (every Saturday, 4 p.m.); The Art of Falling (every Saturday, 11 a.m.); Exploring the Take-Down (or Humbling the Opponent); Kuzushi Principles (The Art of Imbalancing); Mobile Gun Disarming (every Saturday, 2 p.m.); Preventing Car Assault. For details, call 532-6395 or email defense@edsamail.com.ph.

Join Viscomm in celebrating the Yuletide season through an **art workshop** *Kulay Pasko* featuring art lessons using charcoal, pastel, watercolor, oil and mixed media. Classes start Nov. 4 to Dec. 10. Registration going on. For details, call 740-7221.

A workshop on **The Power Principle: Influence with Honor** featuring Dr. Blaine Lee will be held on Nov. 6, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Ballroom of Dusit Hotel, Makati City. For inquiries, call 817-2726.

Wizards' World at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Oct. 31, 3-6 p.m., features fascinating stories from lovable storyteller *Kuya* Bodjie. There will also be an on-the-spot drawing contest, games, magician, and a demo session of the Harry Potter Trading Card Game. Special prizes will also be given to children who come in costume. Each lunch or dinner buffet taken at The Café is equivalent to an entry pass to the Wizards' World. For details, call 867-3333 ext. 3301-3303.

Bazaar @ Glorietta 4, a bargain-filled shopping event until Oct. 31 at the second level of Glorietta 4. On sale are clothes and accessories, gift items, décor selections, leathergoods, apparel, food choices and a lot more.

Abenson recently opened its 41st branch at the Ever Gotesco Commonwealth Center, Don Mariano Avenue cor. Don Antonio Road, QC. Appliance seekers are up for a year-round treat—great discounts, cool premiums and raffle promos. You can even win in the free raffle Visit & Win by simply visiting any of the stores.

Anvil Publishing reissues the popular book **Wuji Yuan Gong: Qigong for Self-Healing and Enlightenment** by the International Sheng Zhen Society. The book teaches the practice of *qigong*, a series of Chinese meditative or physical movements that cultivate the *qi* or life force thus resulting in better health. The book is available at National Bookstore and Powerbooks branches.

Musa, a monthly literary magazine, features poetry as a popular medium of expression in the 21st century for its October issue. Musa also welcomes poems, fiction, essays and other submissions. For subscription, call 0919-8452661 or email musamagazine@yahoo.com.

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Henry G. Barbiera's antiques showroom in Davao City, **Mana-Davao,** celebrates its second anniversary from Oct. 28 to Dec. 28 offering clients special discounts of up to 30 percent with the theme Transforming Your House Into a Home.

Baguio 1900-2001: A Photographic Environmental History, a photo exhibit documenting the city's changing cultural and physical landscape, ongoing until Nov. 7 at the Sanctuary Gallery at Maryknoll, Campo Sioco, Baguio City. For inquiries, call 442-4602.

Treat your kids to a fun-filled **Trick or Treatin'** activity on Oct. 31 at the Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. Lots of fun, games and surprises await kids 15 years old and below. Special prizes will be given to kids who will come in their unique Halloween costume. Also, there will be a Halloween disco party at the Purple Ostrich Café, Bar and Disco on Nov. 3 at 9 p.m. For details, call (046) 434-0210.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.